

# THE INDEPENDENT

N° 3,303

THURSDAY 22 MAY 1997

SPECIAL  
DIVISION

WEATHER: Sun and showers (IR45p) 40p

IN THE TABLOID

REFUGE: THE  
CHARITY THAT  
NEEDS HEALING

INSIDE THE TABLOID

EDUCATION+  
TOO TIRED TO LEARN:  
M.E. IN THE CLASSROOM

TRENDS PAGE 16

DO THE  
LINDY WITH  
LABOUR

## Britain quits a grisly trade

Christopher Bellamy  
Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced a complete ban on anti-personnel landmines, which kill or maim an estimated 20,000 people a year, mainly in the poorest areas of the world. British stockpiles will be destroyed by 2005 – sooner if an international ban is agreed.

Until then, there will be a moratorium on their use by the Armed Forces. Some mines will be kept to be used "in exceptional circumstances", and only with Parliamentary approval, following pressure from Service chiefs. The ban includes the manufacture, transfer, import, and export of anti-personnel landmines.

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, told MPs yesterday that the mines had caused "enormous carnage", often to innocent civilians and children, and the sooner Britain took a lead in getting rid of them the better. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "Every hour, another three people lose their life or lose a limb from stepping on a landmine."

"Thousands of young children who ran on to a landmine are left unable to run ever again. Landmines have limited military use but create unlimited civilian casualties."

The ban follows a highly successful and emotive campaign led by the Red Cross, which has described the mines as "the most ruthless of terrorists", and which hugely raised the campaign's profile when Diana, Princess of Wales, visited Angola under its auspices in January.

Pictures of the Princess wearing body armour and a helmet

with a visor, learning how to dispose of mines, and of the ghastly injuries inflicted on civilians, particularly children, contributed to growing pressure for a world-wide ban.

So-called "smart" mines, which destroy themselves after a period of time, and which the previous Government was examining as a possible replacement for present mines, are also

yesterday refused to say how many of the three types of anti-personnel mine they still had, because it was an indicator of British military capability, but it is believed to be tens of thousands. The previous government had announced a 40 per cent cut in landmines; the new administration is committed to destroying them all by 2005, but that could be sooner if the 50 countries involved in the Ottawa process agree a ban by the end of the year.

Two British weapons have also been re-defined as anti-personnel mines – the L27 anti-tank mine, which can be set off by a person, and the HB 876 bomb, one of the components of the RAF's airfield busting JP-233.

"It's excellent," said Will McMahon of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade. "We obviously welcome it as an opening move by the new government against the arms export trade. We have to see the small print. But the UK is clearly taking a stance internationally."

He added: "We hope it is something the Labour government does in other areas. For example, armoured vehicles to self-destruct."

Tim Carstairs, of the UK Working Group on Landmines, said: "Good – tempered with concern about the moratorium. Is this loophole there in order to use mines? Our experience is that when troops have mines, they use them."

He added: "But the whole concept of mines in the future is kicked out of the door."

"And reclassifying those two mines obviously sends a very important message to companies which might be tempted to try to avoid export controls."

Ruthless terrorists, page 5

banned completely – a major victory for campaigners against landmines, who argued that not all "smart" mines can be relied on to self-destruct.

Although Britain has not exported such weapons for years, the Government ban is seen as setting an example to other countries. Mr Cook said Britain would play a full part in the Ottawa talks, which are trying to get an international ban on landmines, and will redouble its efforts to get one at the Geneva Conference on disarmament. But the effect on the world's main mine manufacturers – Russia, China and India – may be less.

Ministry of Defence sources

Ministry of Defence sources

Ministry of Defence sources

Ministry of Defence sources

"Every hour, another three people lose their life or a limb from stepping on a landmine," says Robin Cook

Photograph: David Stewart-Smith/Katzenbach

Bank surprise Eddie George considered resigning his position as Governor of the Bank of England in protest at the abrupt removal of his powers of banking supervision this week. The Bank was told of the transfer of its regulatory authority to the enlarged SIB only 24 hours before the announcement by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Page 23

Aids evidence Janet Pinto has summoned all her strength in spite of the Aids she is suffering to give evidence against the Cypriot fisherman she claims infected her during a holiday romance.

Page 3

ment by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Quickly



Mo Mowlam: Sweeping away cobwebs

that is the only way we're going to move the process forward."

There was also criticism of timing the meetings with Sinn Fein and the residents' groups, since yesterday was polling day in the local council elections.

The Rev Ian Paisley, the DUP leader, made it clear that for him Ms Mowlam's honeymoon period was over: "We have seen the tip of the iceberg today of new Labour's real policy. Prisoners brought over here... the talks going on at Stormont and in the midst of an election day the Secretary of State consorting with law-breakers."

## Swiss army notebook.

The new multi-featured  
Armada 1500.

£1499+VAT (£1761 incl. VAT)

The new Armada 1500 range from Compaq – highly featured all-in-one notebooks at notably low prices. This Armada 1520D model boasts just about every additional feature you could wish for: 10 speed CD-ROM, stereo speakers, crystal clear 11.3" STN screen and the power of an Intel Pentium® processor 133MHz. Quite simply you get everything you need in one package at a cracking little price.

For your brochure pack please phone:

**0990 50 00 20**



COMPAQ

COMPAG COSTS YOU LESS  
THAN CHEAPER COMPUTERS

Prices quoted are Typical Buying Prices. Photograph shows Armada 1500. Price quoted refers to Armada 1520D. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

David McKittrick

Ulster Correspondent

The snarling stone gryphons which guard the steps of Belfast's Stormont Castle seemed agast yesterday as Labour's new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland stood in their shadow and pushed forward policies full of innovation and, of course, risk.

On the same day as a Sinn Fein delegation trooped past the gryphons to talk to officials about a new ceasefire, Mo Mowlam was criss-crossing Northern Ireland from one marching flashpoint to another, meeting Orangemen and Catholic residents' groups.

The ceiling of the castle's entrance hall may remain encrusted with cobwebs – which it does, literally as well as figuratively – but Ms Mowlam's message is that she is in the business of blowing away the cobwebs. "We will move," she said, in front of the gryphons. "Tony Blair made it ab-

solutely clear that we intend to get momentum into this and to get moving."

The flamboyant baronial castle had always seemed a fitting home to Ms Mowlam's predecessor, Sir Patrick Mayhew, whose vice-regal sedateness chimed perfectly with its turrets and battlements. But now its principal resident is in the business of audacious outreach rather than of simply holding the fort.

The style, and therefore the substance, has changed. Sir Patrick's ingrained Tory pessimism giving way to the new optimism of new Labour. The Tory formality has gone too. Sir Patrick never greeted reporters with "Hello sweethearts," nor kissed Ulster Television's political correspondent.

Yesterday a new start was made on two fronts, the quest for a new IRA ceasefire and the pursuit of a non-confrontational marching season. On the first front, Martin McGuinness led a Sinn Fein delegation for his first meeting with government representatives

since the IRA's bombing of the London Docklands in February last year.

Afterwards Mr McGuinness said the election had brought a change in the attitude of the officials he met. "It was very clear to me from their demeanour at the meeting that they are now working for a new set of employers."

He and Ms Mowlam both said it had been agreed to hold another meeting but she made it clear that this could change if the IRA broke the undeclared suspension of violence which has been in effect for more than three weeks.

While Ms Mowlam did not make a continuing suspension of violence an absolute condition for a further meeting, in speaking to reporters she three times referred to its importance. She declared: "Very usefully, there has been an agreement in principle that they will meet again, conditions on the ground remaining, which I think is the positive story from the meeting."

While she stressed the urgency of

making progress quickly, both she and Mr McGuinness referred to the complication of the Irish general election which is due to be held on 6 June.

He said: "Many people who are close to this process are very conscious about that and about the need for those elections to be out of the way."

This appears to suggest that vital moves in a new peace process will await the outcome of the election, which at the moment appears set to be a close contest. There is also a feeling that any new ceasefire may not arrive until the Drumcree parade, with its threat of another confrontation, is out of the way.

From the Unionist side came criticism of the Secretary's action in meeting residents' groups, some of which are regularly denounced by Unionist politicians and Orangemen as "Sinn Fein – IRA fronts". Ms Mowlam's rejoinder dwelt on her endorsement of dialogue:

"In the end there is no other answer but for people to sit down and talk because for the Secretary of State consorting with law-breakers."

## Non-shouty questions set the right tone



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Tonetime the Boy Prime Minister had had a busy morning, reviewing the entire judicial system and banning landmines. He was still shell-shocked ("first cigarettes, then alcohol and now landmines. What'll a chap do on a Saturday night?"). Now it was time for his first, brand-new, non-shouty, once a week (it had been twice) double-length Prime Minister's Questions – and he was anxious that it go well.

Being extra brave, he'd decided that he wouldn't use any notes. Gone was that huge green folder, with its endless briefing papers and yellow highlighter pens. He was on his own. Furthermore, he'd be nice to everyone, and set a positive mood.

Not everyone got it, of course. The sallow and haggard Eric Premium (Lab, Pendle) – who has been wandering the bleak Lancashire moors too long – asked a strongly worded question about transport. "Passengers had been left high and dry by Stagecoach," he shouted, archaically. It was a "shaming indictment of the previous

administration". "Mmm," said Blair, softly. "A staining indictment? Well, we will have to leave that to others." Anyway, he went on, Mr Prescott would be dealing with transport. Mr Prescott gave a sweet little smile and nodded, like a kindergarden teacher encouraging constructive play among her four year olds.

After that, Labour seekers of

truth took the nicest injunction to heart in an almost grisly way. Jean Corston (Bristol East), was the first of many. Would Tonetime care to set out his policies for convicting more nasty criminals? He would. He did.

Stuart Bell (Middlesbrough) thought 26 bills in one Queen's Speech was just terrific. Happiest was Paddy Ash-

down. He had two questions, where before he only had one! What interrogatory riches! He spent them asking tough things about extra cash for education, and – in bite two – what Tonetime's figures didn't add up. "I do not accept that at all," replied the PM. An expert body (it may even have been the Association of Estate Agents again) had said his figures did add up. So don't worry.

It had been raining, and – with play at the Oval stopped for bad weather – Mr Major had dropped in. He got three questions, all to do with the windfall tax. He thought that Iain Vallance at BT had seemed suspiciously fed up to be told that his company might have to cough up for the windfall tax.

Had he been tipped the wink

that his company would be exempted come the revolution? Mr Major gently required a categorical assurance that no Labourite had behaved in this shocking way.

So, in the best traditions of old and new Prime Minister's Questions, Tonetime gave a bit of obscure name-dropping, "as the Association of Estate Agents was saying just the other day..." No-one laughed at the invocation of this dubious organisation.

Stephen Twigg (Lab, Enfield Southgate), the genial vanquisher of Michael Portillo, expressed concern about drugs.

Since Twigg is a recent president of the National Union of Students, there was a chance that his complaint was against the soaring price of dope. But no. It was another invitation to Tonetime to tell us what he had been up to earlier in the morning, and his plans to appoint a "drugs tsar".

Happiest was Paddy Ashdown. He had two questions, where before he only had one! What interrogatory riches! He spent them asking tough things about extra cash for education, and – in bite two – what Tonetime's figures didn't add up. "I do not accept that at all," replied the PM. An expert body (it may even have been the Association of Estate Agents again) had said his figures did add up. So don't worry.

And that – more or less – was that. It had all been rather successful. The MP's quite liked it. Sensible exchanges had been had, and there was still time for ten radical new measures before bed.

For your brochure pack please phone:

**0990 50 00 20**

21  
9 770951 945443

2.1  
THE BROADSHEET  
Business & City ..... 24-25  
Comment ..... 21  
Foreign News ..... 14-18  
Gazette ..... 22

CONTENTS

Home News ..... 2-13 Sports ..... 28-31 Culture ..... 2  
Leading article ..... 19 Unit Trusts ..... 27 Film ..... 4-9  
Letters ..... 19 Dilemmas ..... 11  
Obituaries ..... 22 THE TABLOID TV & Radio ..... 23-24  
Shares ..... 26 Arts Review ..... 19 Weather ..... 24

## news

## significant shorts

**Union chiefs stride back into corridors of power**

After nearly two decades out in the cold union leaders this week strode into the corridors of power, it emerged yesterday. John Monks, TUC leader, held an unpublicised meeting with the Prime Minister at Downing Street on Tuesday and a day earlier a phalanx of senior trade unionists broached the issue of employees' rights with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

Following the first meeting yesterday of the TUC's inner circle since the election, Mr Monks announced the union movement's Budget submission and welcomed a "substantially changed mood" in Whitehall and Westminster. Apart from the sessions acknowledged by Mr Monks, union leaders have been in frequent contact with the Government over a wide range of issues from the future of the Post Office to the reform of the health service.

Speaking after a meeting of the TUC's executive committee, Mr Monks congratulated ministers for getting off to a "cracking start" by signalling the end of the union ban at GCHQ, the introduction of a minimum wage and the reversion to national bargaining in the NHS. He said: "For 18 years unions have been systematically excluded from playing their proper role in representing their members' interests to government and policy-makers. This has now changed."

**School nurse cuts threaten pupils**

Children are being put at risk by swinging cuts in the number of school nurses, it was claimed yesterday. The result was likely to be more children and teenagers suffering from mental and behavioural problems or eating disorders, falling prey to substance abuse and getting pregnant, nurses warned. The Royal College of Nursing yesterday launched a major campaign to save the school nurse, seen as the profession as an unsung hero.

The RCN is to press the Government to make it a statutory requirement for every child to have access to a school nurse. Members of the RCN meeting at their annual congress in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, later voted to an emergency resolution on the issue. The RCN said school nurses - who number about 5,000 - were being "picked off" to achieve cost cuts because they were a soft target.

**Camelot TV claims rejected**

The National Lottery operator Camelot's complaint against a BBC *Panorama* programme in which the Virgin boss Richard Branson (left) alleged that he had been offered a bribe by Camelot was thrown out by the Broadcasting Standards Commission yesterday.

In the programme last December, Mr Branson claimed that Guy Snowdon, head of computing company GTech and a member of the Camelot consortium, offered him an "inducement" to pull out of bidding for the lottery before the franchise was awarded. Camelot complained to the Broadcasting Standards Commission that the programme acted unfairly because it did not fully inform the company of the seriousness of the programme's allegations before interviewing one of its senior staff, did not allow the company to put its side of the story and edited the programme in a selective and unfair manner. The BSC rejected all of Camelot's complaints.

Paul McCann

**Greenpeace in frontier venture**

Greenpeace yesterday launched an ambitious campaign to halt oil exploration and production in the "Atlantic Frontier", north-west of Scotland. The deep continental shelf waters are seen as the most promising area for substantial offshore oil production around Britain as North Sea fields run down; already BP and Shell have made discoveries. The environmental group argues that if the threat of catastrophic climate change is to be averted the oil exploration has to cease, because the burning of existing reserves will in itself cause dangerous global warming.

Nicholas Schoon

**Off-licence shelves alcopop plans**

Britain's biggest chain of off-licences has shelved plans to bring out an own-brand alcopop amid growing criticism of the controversial drinks. The Spar chain, which has 2,200 stores, said a planned range had been put on hold after allegations that the sweet-flavoured drinks deliberately target under-age drinkers.

**Lloyd-Webber's £3.5m wine sale**

The sale of Lord Lloyd-Webber's wine collection at Sotheby's in London fetched a total of more than £3.5m, smashing the pre-sale estimate of between £2-£2.7m, the auction house said.

**Men worn down by thrill of the chase**

Relentless pursuit of sex is wearing down the male population and sending them to an early grave, according to a British scientist. After research into a species of nematode worm Dr David Gems has concluded that men could possibly live an extra 13.5 years and the worms could increase their lifespan by two-thirds if they stopped chasing females. Dr Gems, a geneticist at University College London, claims that although women traditionally live longer, it is really men who are programmed to live further into old age. There would be more old men than old women if it were not for their sex drive, he says in the latest *New Scientist* magazine.

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

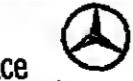
		OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Austria	5000 N'thds	£5.00	
Belgium	BR50 Italy	£4.500	
Canada	PS300 Mexico	£5.25	
Cyprus	CL20 Malta	43 cents	
Denmark	Dkr2 Norway	Nkr20	
Iraq	45 Portugal	£5.25	
France	Fr12 Spain	Ps200	
Germany	DM4.5 Sweden	SEK21	
Greece	DR50 Switzerland	Swf.00	
Luxembourg	LF50 USA	\$3.00	

Overseas subscriptions available from: Heston Newspapers, telephone 01986 640270.

ASPIRE

Big ideas

in a small space



## people



BITING HUMOUR: The veteran comedian Jerry Lewis, ready to devour his wife in public yesterday, as he arrived in London to star in *Damn Yankees* at the Adelphi Theatre (Photograph: Reuters)

**Britain's Jackson Pollock gives away £1m of art**

The artist known as the British Jackson Pollock yesterday donated works valued at more than £1m worth of his works to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

The gift, by Alan Davie, was made after the gallery was able to buy four of his early works with money from the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

He donated 13 oil paintings and 14 gouache drawings, including several works that are of world renown, because he wanted the "cream" to be kept in his native Scotland.

Alan Davie was born in Edinburgh in 1920, and the works donated include his earliest self-portrait, made when he was 17, and some of his famous large abstract oils on canvas.

During the 1950s and 1960s, at the height of his career, he was regarded by many as the European equivalent of American artists Pollock and Mark Rothko, some of whose colourful and powerful abstracts are prominently shown in the Tate Gallery in London, and command vast sums in the international art market.

Mr Davie said yesterday: "It gives me great satisfaction that a major collection of my work will belong to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

I have been fate all over the world and it does now seem as if I am becoming more appreciated in my own land.

In the past, so much of my work has gone abroad, but I have always kept the cream of my work for myself that it could remain in Scotland."

Patrick Elliott, a curator at the Edinburgh gallery, said:

"He is arguably the most important post-war Scottish painter and this is the first time the National Heritage Lottery Fund has been used to buy works by a living artist.

"There aren't many Scottish artists who are world-renowned, and it will create a lot of local interest."

"He is not only a great artist, but a popular one too. A double whammy for us."

Six of the paintings are on display at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and will remain on show throughout the summer.

**Barbie's new friend is wheeled out**

A new member of the Barbie doll family was introduced to the public yesterday - one that uses a wheelchair and is intended to change attitudes about people with disabilities.

"She's a Smile Becky" is the new 11-and-a-half-inch friend of Barbie, who comes in a bright pink wheelchair. The strawberry blonde doll wears a turquoise outfit with a white shirt underneath emblazoned with IDEA, standing for Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

The doll, made by Mattel, would help dispel uneasiness some people have around those with disabilities, the company said.

Hannah Withers, aged 9, of Springfield, Virginia, who has cerebral palsy, stroked the doll's hair as she sat in her own wheelchair and exclaimed with a big grin: "She's in a wheelchair."

"I was so excited," said Hannah's mother, Tina. "Becky's legs, you can bend the knees. This is something Hannah is working on."

The bendable joints is an exclusive feature of Becky.

James Brady, the former press secretary to Ronald Reagan who was paralysed in a 1981 assassination attempt, said he planned to use the doll as a "teaching guide."

**Solzhenitsyn has heart trouble**

Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who fought the Soviet Union before turning his fire on capitalist Russia, has been admitted to hospital with a heart condition, his assistant announced yesterday.

"He feels all right and did not have a heart attack," said Munire Urazova.

The 79-year-old Nobel laureate was admitted to the Central Clinical Hospital on 12 May

Solzhenitsyn won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970 for writings which publicised the harshness of the Soviet prison camp system, in which he spent nearly a decade.

Expelled from the Soviet Union in 1974, Solzhenitsyn lived in exile in rural America for 20 years before returning to Russia, where he attacked its new leaders for being just as bad as the communists.

The author of *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, First Circle and Cancer Ward has had a discreet life since his weekly television programme was taken off the air in 1995.

The bearded firebrand, who says his country has lost its spiritual roots and favours a kind of 19th century rural nationalism, was widely criticised for being out of touch with modern Russia after his long exile.

"Barbie is still the same Barbie. She's still cool," he said.

The doll is being sold exclusively in Toys R Us stores across the US, and hit the shelves at \$19.99.

Between 4,500 and 6,000 dolls have been sold nationwide, Mattel officials said.

"Barbie's world reflects the real world. Barbie has African-American friends. She has Asian friends. She has Hispanic friends. She has men and women friends."

"This is another doll in her world that will really showcase the richness and the diversity that we see in the real world today," said Mattel's product manager, Marla Librato.

AP, Washington

Reuters, Moscow

Barbie's new friend is wheeled out

An investigation into the expenses claimed by a jet-setting university vice-chancellor saw "errors of judgement", the Government's public spending watchdog said yesterday.

The National Audit Office found that Portsmouth University had not complied with good practice in its handling of allegations against Neil Merritt, who resigned as vice-chancellor in December 1994.

The university had incurred "significant costs" during its investigation, including around £140,000 for an independent inquiry, the NAO said.

Portsmouth University governors launched an initial investigation in the autumn of 1993, after it emerged that Mr Merritt had claimed on expenses for club class air travel on two trips to Egypt and the Far East when he had in fact downgraded to two economy class tickets for himself and his wife, making a profit of £1,457.

A year later, the vice-chancellor's secretary reported concerns that her boss was misrepresenting his expenses to evade VAT, and Mr Merritt handed in his resignation shortly afterwards.

The National Audit Office said there was no evidence that anyone involved in handling the investigation had acted improperly, but said that the university's audit committee had misjudged the seriousness of the vice-chancellor's actions because it did not involve the theft or the loss of university funds.

It recommended that other universities learn lessons from Portsmouth's experience in setting procedures on handling misconduct for senior staff.

In addition, it called for the Department for Education and Employment to offer more guidance on the duties and responsibilities of governing bodies.

Lucy Ward

## briefing

## HEALTH

**Asthma gene mutation discovered on island**

Researchers have identified a mutated gene that makes people susceptible to asthma, having discovered it on one of the world's most isolated islands.

Sequana Therapeutics analysed DNA from about 300 people on Tristan da Cunha, an island in the south Atlantic, about 1,500 miles from South Africa. About 30 per cent of the island's residents have asthma, apparently passed on from an original settler.

The pinpointing of the mutated genes eventually could help identify people at risk of getting sick, and also could suggest new drugs for treatment.

"We found a difference - a change in that DNA that is different in people who have asthma than those that don't have the disease," said Bob Giangianni, of San Diego-based Sequana.

The researchers said that of the estimated 15 million Americans with asthma, up to 10 per cent seemed to have a genetic predisposition to the disease.

## SOCIETY

**Lunch – not to be taken lightly**

Sandwiches have become the latest status symbol for ambitious office workers, according to market research carried out by the supermarket chain Tesco. Bosses are making sure they order more expensive sandwiches than their secretaries, who will in turn order more expensive sandwiches than the lowly receptionist.

According to Tesco, it's all to do with image. "Sandwiches are usually eaten at your desk, and everyone looks to see what the next person has bought," said a spokesman.

Well-paid executives invariably insist on designer sandwiches, made from specialty breads, rather than a humble sliced loaf.

It appears that businessmen simply don't want to be seen with a humble cheese sandwich. "They want to be seen as sophisticated knowledgeable about food - and a sandwich which stands out in a crowd is used to give them psychological edge over their rivals," said the spokesman.



## SCHOOLS

**ME taking toll in the classroom**

The chronic fatigue illness ME is the biggest cause of long-term sickness absence in UK schools, a study published today claims. A survey responded by 1,100 schools revealed ME was responsible for 51 per cent of long-term absence, while a fifth of schools had experienced cases of ME.

For every 100,000 children, there are 70 cases of ME, and more than a third of all cases occur in clusters - often in areas near polluted water.

Jane Colby, an ME sufferer who carried out the survey with consultant microbiologist Dr Elizabeth Dowsett, said: "This disease shows a very sinister pattern right across the school population. No-one can deny any longer how serious it is."

ME, which can leave sufferers so weak they can barely chew food, is more commonly associated with high-flying adults, earning the nickname " yuppie flu ". However, awareness is growing of its capacity to strike in children, causing them to miss vital months of schooling.

Jane Colby writes on ME in *Education Plus*, in today's edition of *The Independent*. Lucy Ward

## TECHNOLOGY

**T-rays could supersede X-rays**

The T-Ray could replace the X-Ray, with images that are sharper and safer, according to research published today.

Scientists in New York say the terahertz rays - electromagnetic waves with frequencies that are measured in trillions of seconds - could be used in everything from medicine to drug enforcement.

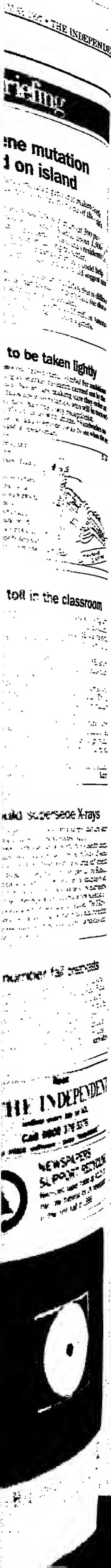
Physicist Xi Cheng Zhang and his colleagues at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, say the imaging system can produce pictures with a resolution of up to 150 micrometres.

The team, whose findings were reported in *New Scientist*, is initially concentrating on its medical applications. The T-Rays could also be used to check silicon chip circuits, hunt for hidden drugs being loaded onto planes, look for defects in plastics and monitor food for freshness.

## ALCOHOL

**Record number fail breath-tests**

More than 100,000 people breathalysed by police last year were over the drink-drive limit, the Home Office said yesterday. Police forces around the country carried out 781,000 roadside tests in 1996, the largest number ever. Of those, 100,500 were positive. In 1995, 94,400



# The Shirley Valentine devastated by Aids takes revenge on her fisherman lover



Good times, hard times: Jan Pink and Pavlos Georgiou (left) during their relationship, and (right) Miss Pink as she is now, her appearance dramatically changed by the onset of Aids, which caused her weight to plummet to five stones

Photographs: Solo



Ian Barrell

Only eight months ago, Janette Pink weighed barely five stone and could talk only in a whisper. Her skin had turned brown from the effects of Aids and doctors gave her 20 months to live.

But today, summoning her strength she will have her day in a Cypriot court, giving evidence against the man she believes deliberately infected her with the deadly virus. It is this fight for justice which has strengthened her will to survive. Once too weak to stand, she has put on two stone and taken up swimming to build her strength.

At the weekend she travelled, more than 2,000 miles from her home in Basildon, Essex, back into the searing summer heat of the Mediterranean holiday isle where she had set out on the dream of a new life only four years ago.

Mirroring the script of the film *Shirley Valentine* she uprooted from

Britain after divorcing from a long marriage and then quickly fell in love.

"Tomorrow, for the first time in nine months, she will set eyes on her former lover, Pavlos Georgiou, on trial for giving her Aids."

Mrs Pink, 45, is the chief prosecution witness. "I want to go back to Cyprus to see his face in the dock," she said. "I wonder whether he will be able to look me in the eye."

She will allege that Mr Georgiou,

39, a fisherman, gave her HIV through unprotected sex during an 18-month relationship which began with a chance meeting in a local bar, two months after she left England.

Last night Mrs Pink was with

friends and relatives in Agia Napa, the resort on the south-eastern tip of the island where she first met Mr Georgiou. Her former lover looked tired and angry last night at the prospect of appearing in court. Lying in front of the television in the new apartment he has had built alongside the family-run London

Archway pub in Agia Napa where the couple met, he declined to talk about the case. "I don't care about her," he shouted in Greek. "Get out of my house before I punch you."

This morning the former lovers will separately make the 25-mile journey down the coast in the humidity of 27°C temperature to the modern white court building in Larnaca, which is preparing for the case, the

If Mr Georgiou is convicted he is likely to come against prejudice and isolation in prison because of his HIV status. "This is not like England. Here we don't like people who have Aids," said another local.

The case has only been brought at all because of a tireless campaign by Mrs Pink and her family. The prosecution is based on an ancient island law aimed at limiting the

against those who fail to warn their sexual partners that they have HIV.

In 1992, Kenneth Clarke, then Home Secretary, ruled out a criminal offence of knowingly transmitting HIV, and the only recourse in Britain is a manslaughter or murder charge, along with proof that the death of the victim was intended.

Mrs Pink, the former wife of a City accountant had travelled to

months, she saw Mr Georgiou occasionally, as a friend, until in April 1994 she realised she had fallen in love. He had, she says, confided to her that his wife was dying from leukaemia. In fact, Martha Georgiou was dying from Aids and the youngest of the couple's four children also had the virus. But unaware of her lover's HIV status, Mrs Pink agreed to unprotected sex.

Mrs Pink was said by friends to be "mesmerised" by her new lover who took her on trips to the snow-covered Cyprus mountains. Later she was happy to part with thousands of pounds from her divorce settlement to help him build a new boat.

But at Christmas, the truth began to unfold. Martha Georgiou died from Aids in a London hospital. As word spread in Cyprus, Mrs Pink's friends persuaded her to go for an Aids test. Even when she discovered she was HIV-positive, she could not overcome her infatuation. Believing that Mr Georgiou was the only per-

son who could now care for her, she moved into his home, and then in January last year became accidentally pregnant. Scared that the baby would be HIV-positive, she opted for a termination.

Within months, Mrs Pink had developed full-blown Aids and her health rapidly deteriorated. The physical side of her relationship with Mr Georgiou came to an end.

She last saw him at the harbour as she returned to Britain last August, desperately ill and close to death.

Even now she needs 30 drugs a day, morphine and frequent blood transfusions. Her partial recovery has been spurred, she says, by the realisation that her former lover could still be passing the virus to others.

According to Mr Georgiou, Mrs Pink was aware all along of his HIV status and is now pursuing a vendetta. He said Mrs Pink had made a "big mistake" in seeking the prosecution. "Her motive is revenge. She was just jealous," he said.

I want to go back to Cyprus to see his face in the dock ...  
I wonder if he will be able to look me in the eye'

like of which has not been heard in Cyprus before.

Local feeling is running high. "People are very angry with the Cypriot guy," said one local man. "He's a killer just the same as if he was using a gun. He has destroyed that woman and he should be hung."

spread of diseases like cholera and typhoid and carries a maximum sentence of only two years in jail and a £1,500 fine. But Mrs Pink and her supporters believe the outcome of the case could have vital implications for the future, setting an international precedent which could be used

Cyprus in 1993 with a £26,000 lump sum from her ex-husband and a gift of £25,000 from her mother Sheila, to help pay for a new home.

She bought an apartment in Paralimni, a resort popular with British expatriates with a lively party circuit which she quickly joined. For seven

## T-Rex's bite made worse by his gout

## Poms deprived of the right to whinge

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

It was grumpy, loud, and carnivorous and the classic image of Tyrannosaurus Rex, the archetypal dinosaur, may have had a lot to do with its appetite, according to work by American scientists. For the "tyrant king" of the now-extinct beasts had gout, says a study of fossilised bones and joints. This would have made movement painful - just as it does for human sufferers of the condition.

And for anyone who decides that seeing its fabled grumpiness on screen (in the new Spielberg film *The Lost World*) is not enough, the next few months will offer the chance to buy two of the most complete T rex skeletons that exist. One, with more than 60 per cent of the bones in place, is being offered for \$10m, while another - which was key in the discovery of T rex's ailment - is being auctioned in autumn in New York, with a reserve price of \$1m.

Gout is caused by the formation of needle-shaped crystals of uric acid in the joints - usually, in humans, because of



ineffective kidneys. Among famous sufferers was Henry VIII. Before modern medicines (which can dissolve the crystals) were available, the usual treatment was rest, in order that the crystals might dissolve sponta-

neously. However, it causes erosion of the bone where the crystals form - which is what Bruce Rothschild, of the Arthritis Center of Northeast Ohio, in Youngstown, noticed in the right forearm of one of the three

most complete T rex skeletons (known as Sue). More studies on other bones of other skeletons confirmed signs of bone erosion peculiar to gout - which has been found in modern-day reptiles and birds, which are de-

scended from the dinosaurs. The question, though, is why T rex should have got gout, since it did not (as far as palaeontologists can tell) drink port or eat herring, the usual causes in those genetically predisposed to the disease. However, says Mr Rothschild, another factor is consumption of foods with high concentrations of chemicals known as purines - plentiful in red meat.

This, he notes, was "no stranger to this denizen from the Cretaceous era."

The sale of T rex skeletons has been timed to cash in on the Spielberg film, and could provide a useful measure of the real scientific value of dinosaur skeletons - as opposed to their value to filmmakers.

The \$10m price tag placed on the first skeleton, which includes a tooth 33cm long, is almost 10 times greater than the previous top price for a fossil.

Poms, stop your whingeing. The age-old insult meted out to Britons by Australians (or Skippies, as we like to say when hurling back slang in return) is no longer derogatory, but a term of endearment.

Yesterday, the President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Sir Ronald Wilson, ruled that "pom" and "pommy" were unlikely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate.

Sir Ronald was dismissing a complaint - presumably from a whingeing pom - against the *Courier-Mail* newspaper in Brisbane.

However, he said he could imagine, "albeit with some difficulty", that the words could be unlawful in the context of an article which was plainly malicious or scurrilous.

The term "pom" has a variety of origins, depending on who you talk to. Some say it came from the red, pomegranate hue

that British First World War soldiers turned in the desert sun. Others believe it came from the initials of "Prisoner of Mother England", referring to the English convicts sent to Australia in the 1700s and 1800s.

The Oxford English Dictionary is clear about its inference.

"Pom" is Australian and New Zealand slang (usu. derog.), it

says, above a description of the same word as "dried and powdered cooked potato".

Australians may have lost a popular insult yesterday but those who really want to vent their anger on intruders from the UK can of course revert to another age-old favourite - "whingeing bath-dodgers".

When Britons arrive Down Under they are unused to the heat and continue, so the fable goes, to bathe only infrequently compared to their antipodean cousins.

One Skippy in Britain, John Coleman, award-winning DJ at Virgin radio, and Sydney-sider, said "pom" was now considered a "badge of honour" rather than an insult.

"Poms are proud of it. It's better than 'wogs' - the name the Greeks or Italians get given by the Australians," he said.

"Mind you, the Greeks are so used to it now that when a group of them set up a theatre company they called it Wogs out of Work."

## Naturally Greenpeace approves of chopping down trees to make window frames.

Window frames made of timber from well managed forests are more ecologically acceptable than those made of uPVC. So says Greenpeace. Who are we to disagree?

Think Wood

The Timber Trade Federation, 26-27 Oxenden Street, London SW1Y 4EL  
<http://www.ttf.co.uk>





Bruce Lee, who features in the Doritos credits...

## Blair's favourite persuader bags another victory – for crisps

**Paul McCann**  
Media Correspondent

Tony Blair's favourite adman, Chris Powell, had more good news last night, when his advertising agency, BMP DDB, picked up the advertising industry's highest award for a piece of work that wasn't even an advertisement.

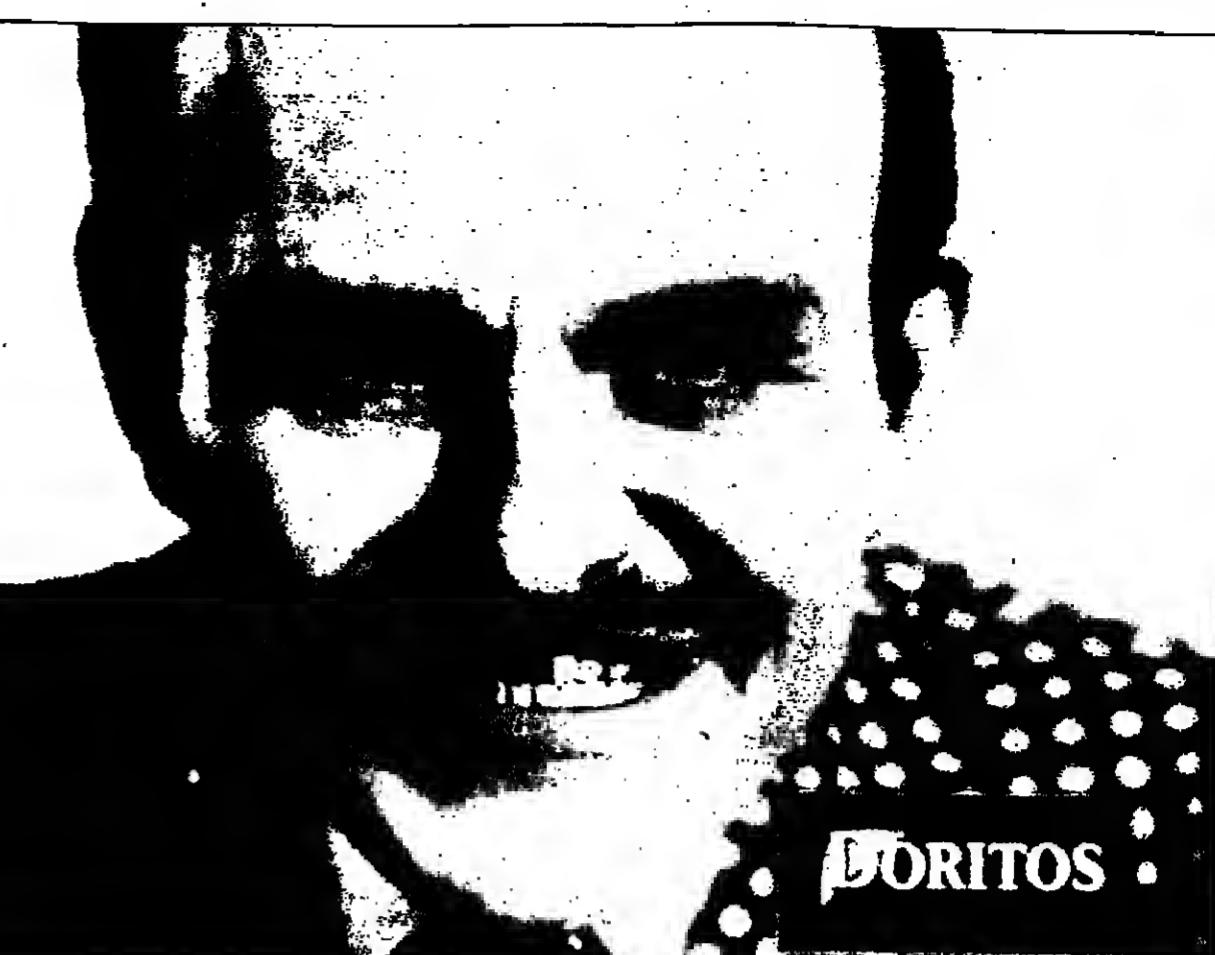
BMP DDB, which handles the Labour Party's account, picked up the only gold of the night at the advertising world's

Oscars - the Design and Art Direction awards - for its sponsorship credits for Doritos crisps.

The credits, which were used during Doritos' sponsorship of a season of ITV film premieres, had the faces of film stars such as Terry Thomas and Bruce Lee superimposed on a pair of lips munching crisps and making appreciative noises. "This is the first award to go to a sponsorship credit," said Chas Bayfield, a creative at Tango agency

phobes and puppies and encouraged young people to vote in the election because the people featured would.

The Doritos "munching mouths", which last only a few seconds, beat off the advertisement from Blackcurrant Tango, the heavily tipped industry favourite. The advertisement featured xenophobic spokesman Roy Gardner marching through the White Cliffs of Dover challenging a French schoolboy to a fight because he



along with the comedy actor Terry Thomas. The advertising agency, BMP DDB, which created it also handles the Labour account

forced to hand it back when the Advertising Standards Authority was deluged with complaints about the suggestive nature of the posters.

This time the ads ran in youth magazines like Loaded and kept their heavy reliance on double entendre to suggest sex-filled holidays for twenty-something things. Copylines included: "One summer doesn't make a difference", "Something deep inside her said she'd come again" and "Spend two weeks on some

bloke's boat". Mr Bayfield said it was easier for ads that sell youth products to win awards: "It is always the funny, beer ads or sexy ads that connect with the judges. It is also easier to make interesting ads that are just for one group. With soap powder you have to be careful not to turn anyone away, so its advertising is traditionally bland."

"I would love to see something as potent as the Ministry of Sound vote ads used to sell soap powder."

lost rivers  
in at work

## Princess in armour put focus on mines

**Christopher Bellamy**  
Defence Correspondent

There are an estimated 100 million anti-personnel landmines scattered around the world in 71 countries and they kill or maim - usually maim - an estimated 20,000 people a year, mostly civilians in the poorest areas of the world.

As the Red Cross, which has been in the forefront of the campaign against such mines said recently, they are "fighters that never miss, strike blindly, do not carry weapons openly, and go on killing long after hostilities are ended. In short: mines are the greatest violators of international humanitarian law. They are the most ruthless of terrorists".

The Princess of Wales's visit to Angola in January, in support of the Red Cross campaign, raised its profile dramatically. Pictures of the Princess wearing body armour and a helmet with a visor, learning how to dispose of mines, and of the ghastly injuries inflicted on civilians, particularly children, contributed to growing pressure for a worldwide ban.

Angola is probably the most mined country in the world, with an astonishing one-and-a-half mines per inhabitant, or 10 to 15 million mines in all. More than 30,000 Angolans have had limbs amputated as a result of mine explosions.

Martin Bell, the new independent MP for Tatton, said in his inaugural speech on Tuesday, "they are laid by soldiers against soldiers, but their principal victims are nearly always civilians and two categories of civilians - farmers and children".

Anti-personnel mines which explode into fragments when detonated by their victim. They can be placed on stakes, scattered over the ground or buried slightly below it, and can be detonated by trip-wires, by pressure or just by weight.



The Princess of Wales during her visit Angola

being touched. The brightly coloured "butterfly" mine, the most common found in Afghanistan, is particularly attractive to young children, who think it is a toy. Many have lost a hand, an arm, eyes or a face to those "toys".

The Government's announcement of a total ban on the import, export, manufacture and transfer of anti-personnel landmines and components for them marks a victory for a co-ordinated campaign run by the UK Working Group on Land Mines. Many organisations have been involved, including the Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Oxfam, Save the Children, Action Aid, Christian Aid and most active, the Red Cross.

One of the key problems in trying to ban anti-personnel land mines is defining what exactly they are. Anti-tank mines, which only go off when a heavy weight is driven over them, are

# Dixons DEAL 97

## PRICE CRASH ON PlayStation



Bigger  
and  
Better  
than Ever!

**PRICE -  
WE CAN'T  
BE BEATEN**

One visit, and you'll find out why.

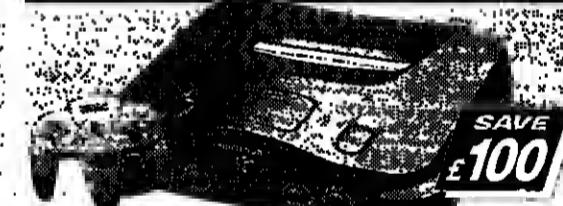
**EVERYTHING YOU NEED**  
From the latest consoles to a great range of accessories.

**LATEST TECHNOLOGY**  
If it's new, we've got it. Come in and see it now.

**ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST**  
What's new, what's hot, which accessories will make the difference.

**QUALITY GUARANTEED**  
And you've got Mastercare, Britain's biggest service and repair network, on hand.

**NINTENDO 64  
SAVE £100**



Dixons Deal 97

**£149.99**

NINTENDO 64 CONSOLE

Now you can get your hands on the world's first true 64-bit games system. Experience the most exhilarating gameplay possible! Was £249.99.

£249.99

Dixons Deal 97

**£39.99**

FIFA 97

With the launch of the FIFA Soccer series, FIFA 97 is a completely new game built on a 64-bit engine.

£64.99

Dixons Deal 97

**£39.99**

SOUL BLADE

Set in the 16th century, this 3D combat adventure features 10 brave warriors from around the globe who have travelled in search of the legendary Soul Blade.

£44.99

Dixons Deal 97

**£39.99**

FIGHTERS MEGAMIX

PLUS SAT & JOYPAD FOR SATURN

Features the best fighting action from 5 top Sega games.

£44.99

Dixons Deal 97

**£54.99**

WAVE RACE 64

Plunge into an incredible new racing experience - riding the waves on high speed jet skis and leaving your competitors behind in the surf.

£249.99

Dixons Deal 97

**£54.99**

NINTENDO 64

Get the ultimate 64-bit gaming experience with the world's first true 64-bit games system. Experience the most exhilarating gameplay possible! Was £249.99.

£249.99

Dixons Deal 97

**£54.99**

**Dixons**

There's Great Deals going on

### 4 GAME PACK

Includes PlayStation Console, Plus, Wario, Onida Soccer, Hardcore 4x4, and Pandemonium.  
Total Separate Selling Price £299.95

**£199.95**

Dixons Deal 97

**£100**

Dixons Deal 97

**£199.95**

Dixons Deal 97

6 news

# Specialist task force to target youth crime

Jason Bennett  
Crime Correspondent

A specialist task force to help tackle juvenile crime is being set up by the Government. It was announced yesterday.

The 12-strong team, which will include experts from social services, the police and the Audit Commission, will advise the Home Secretary on future policy and help draft new laws.

In his first major public speech since becoming Home Secretary, Jack Straw also yesterday outlined plans for a major overhaul of the Crown Prosecution Service and repeated his pledge to deal with youth crime. This included forcing some young offenders to do community work and undergo extra education (such as Saturday morning schools), and random drug testing of some burglars and robbers.

Speaking at the Police Federation's annual conference in Blackpool, Mr Straw revealed details of his new Youth Justice Task Force, which is expected to be set up within a few weeks. The unit will comprise invited representatives from organisations including the probation service, the Home Office, the Department of Health, social services, courts, police, and the Audit Commission, the public spending watchdog.

The task force will help Mr Straw draw up the details of the forthcoming Crime and Disorder Bill, and advise on future policy and initiatives in dealing with youth crime.

The decision to bring in expert help emphasises the importance Mr Straw is placing on reducing juvenile offending.

"The new task force will represent a significant change of approach," he said. "Too often, in recent years, we have seen change by diktat. I want change based on consent, openness and partnership. I want to shed some much-needed light on the workings of the youth justice."

He added: "It will act as the engine of change to drive the much-needed reforms of the youth justice system - a system which is currently slow and ineffective and which wastes up to £1bn of taxpayers' money every year."

On the issue of the CPS, Mr Straw said that the Attorney-General would shortly announce that the organisation

was being split into 42 areas - one for each police area with a joint operation for London. A chief Crown prosecutor would be appointed for each area and would take over responsibility from the police of keeping victims informed of the progress of cases.

Mr Straw said there would also be a review of the whole of the CPS to discover whether failings in the organisation were responsible for the fall in the number of prosecutions.

Also speaking at the conference Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, called for more money to pay for extra officers on the beat. He said the police service had been "stripped of excess fat".



Bell touches down for flying visit to runway warriors

Michael Streeter

The new MP Martin Bell yesterday called for a "model eviction" on his visit to the Manchester second-runway protest as officials continued their step-by-step attempt to shift demonstrators from the muddy, rain-drenched site.

Mr Bell, who has been criticised by some protesters for not taking a stand against plans to build the runway in Bollin Valley, which straddles the Greater Manchester-Chester border, said his priority was the safety of all involved, and refused to take sides.

After a tour of the site, where the eviction began at 4am on Tuesday, Mr Bell told former media colleagues he supported the right to demonstrate peacefully and the right of bailiffs to remove people from the 1,000-acre wooded land, part of which is in his Tatton constituency. "I hope it will be a model eviction," he said.

He has reported to have raised with deputy under-sheriff Randall Hibbert allegations that a documentary-maker was hit on the head by bailiffs in Tuesday's operation, and claims by protesters that they had been kicked and some hit with batons.

Mr Bell said he would fight to ensure Manchester Airport did not become a "Heathrow of the North" and made it clear he disapproved of the airport in principle. "I do not see the volume of traffic merits the runway." But he said it was a "done deal" and he could not support breaking of the law. Although 40 people, including 11 yesterday, have left the protest voluntarily, plus 13 arrested on Tuesday, organisers claim there are now more demonstrators on the site than before as new protesters arrive, swelling their numbers to more than 100.

Tunnel engineers and tree-climbers among the sheriffs' officials yesterday removed people from the Jimi Hendrix camp, but the larger camp on the Cheshire side of the Bollin river, called Flywood, Live Rats, Wild Garlic and Sir Cliff Richard, are so far untouched, including the 70ft-long Cakeboard tunnel. The specialist teams, which may take a month to complete their work, are trying to isolate the camps from one another by removing walkways.

# We're giving you a high rate at short notice.

**NEW HALIFAX 60 DAY GOLD.**  
**6.00%\***  
Gross p.a. on a balance of £100,000 or more

Once you had to choose between a high interest rate at 90 days' notice or easier access but with lower rates. Now you can take advantage of a simple new savings deal from Halifax.

The 60 Day Gold Account features some of our highest variable interest rates and as the name suggests, it requires only 60 days written notice for withdrawals. Better still, if your balance stays over £25,000 you can make instant withdrawals without giving any notice or losing any interest. We also promise to update you with details of our savings accounts.

So for details of the account that gives you all the options, call into your local Halifax branch.



Get a little extra help.

\*RATE QUOTED IS VARIABLE AND BASED ON BALANCES OF £100,000 OR MORE. INTEREST IS PAID ANNUALLY OR 1ST FEBRUARY. MONTHLY INCOME IS AVAILABLE AT SLIGHTLY LOWER RATES. 'GROSS' MEANS BEFORE WE HAVE TAKEN OFF LOWER RATE INCOME TAX. INTEREST WILL BE PAID NET (WHICH MEANS AFTER WE HAVE TAKEN OFF LOWER RATE INCOME TAX). CURRENTLY 30-31 DAYS AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED A REGISTRATION FORM OR MADE A DECLARATION TO COMPLY WITH HEADING 1000A REGULATIONS. WITHDRAWALS CAN BE MADE AT ANY LOCAL BRANCH. WITHDRAWALS OVER £10,000 OR ABOVE £25,000, NO NOTICE IS REQUIRED. MINIMUM OPENING DEPOSIT £1,000 WITHOUT HAVING ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS. 600 CALLS PER MONTH IN CASH AT ANY HALIFAX BRANCH, AS LONG AS YOU KEEP TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE ACCOUNT. FULL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ANY HALIFAX BRANCH OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HD1 2PS.

Ground control: Martin Bell on the site yesterday

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

## Labour orders inquiry into bribery claims

Fran Abrams and Stephen Goodwin

Labour ordered a "high-level" internal inquiry yesterday into allegations that Mohammed Sarwar, the MP for Glasgow Govan, gave a bribe to another candidate in the general election campaign.

Mr Sarwar has admitted bailing over £5,000 to Islam Badar, but argued that the money was a loan given after the election. He plans to take legal action against the *New of the World* over claims made in an article last Sunday.

The party's National Executive Committee met yesterday and said that a panel of three of its members would investigate and "leave no stone unturned."

Labour's general secretary, Tom Sawyer, announced the move after the meeting. "We will not hesitate to take action, however, tough, if there is any proof of corruption, abuse or wrongdoing. As Tony Blair said this morning, we were elected to introduce higher standards and we will uphold higher standards," he said.

Mr Sarwar said he "fully understand" the need for an inquiry and welcomed it. In a statement, the cash-and-carry millionaire echoed Mr Blair's commitment to higher standards in politics and insisted once again that the newspaper allegations were "totally false".

None the less, Mr Sarwar's prospects of hanging on as Britain's first Muslim MP look bleak. His supporters in the fractious Govan Labour Party have begun to flake away, while the less committed hope he will resign by the weekend and let them prepare for the by-election they believe inevitable.

The coalition of Sarwar people, left activists and ordinary members in Govan is disintegrating by the hour, a party source said. "This is a tragedy not just for Sarwar, but for people who have given years of work for the Govan party. It has all turned to ashes in two weeks."

One member of the panel will be Alan Johnson, former general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers and now MP for Hull West and Hessle. The investigation will begin immediately and run parallel to the police investigation.

## Mandelson to be minister without any questions

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, has also become the Minister without Questions. It emerged yesterday that he is to be the only Commons minister who will not be subjected to the regular sessions of cross-examination by MPs.

The curious office of Minister without Portfolio dates back to 1915, but for the last 50 years or so, office-holders in the Commons have always been available for questioning in the House.

The only exceptions appear to be Jeremy Hanley and Brian Mawhinney, but they were also chairmen of the Tory Party, and were therefore not paid ministers; the job was a device to give them access to Cabinet meetings and ministerial papers.

Mr Mandelson, who is based in the Cabinet Office, and has responsibility for the presentation and co-ordination of government policy, is paid a ministerial salary of £31,125 in addition to his MP's pay of £43,860. As Tory chairman, Mr Hanley and Dr Mawhinney

were also ministers without a department.

But last week, the official Commons record, *Hansard*, published a definitive list of the new government, which put Mr Mandelson as number two in the Office of Public Service (OPS), under David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cabinet minister responsible for the Civil Service.

Mr Mandelson was given the same OPS post in the official *House of Commons Weekly Information Bulletin* this week.

As one of three Ministers in the OPS, Mr Mandelson would have been available for questioning by MPs in the Commons on 4 June, immediately before the new, weekly half-hour session of Prime Minister's Question Time.

But Whitehall sources said yesterday that there had been a mistake: *Hansard* and the *Bulletin* had got it wrong: Mr Mandelson was not part of Mr Clark's team in the OPS; and he is therefore not available for oral questions in the House. A spokeswoman said, however, that he would answer written Commons questions.

## Free modem. Get online now.



Upgrades Options

Upgrade to a 200MHz Intel Pentium Processor with MMX Technology

Add an Iomega Zip Drive with 3x100Mb cartridges

Upgrade to AWE 32 Sound and ACS290 speakers

Special price

£100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)

£99 (£116.33 inc. VAT)

£100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)

**DELL®**

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE

**01344 724693**

Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

Visit our website: [www.dell.com/uk](http://www.dell.com/uk)

reference  
be stu  
by autu

ESTER'S QUESTIO

Mr Mandelson to be minister without any questions

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, has also become the Minister without Questions. It emerged yesterday that he is to be the only Commons minister who will not be subjected to the regular sessions of cross-examination by MPs.

The curious office of Minister without Portfolio dates back to 1915, but for the last 50 years or so, office-holders in the Commons have always been available for questioning in the House.

The only exceptions appear to be Jeremy Hanley and Brian Mawhinney, but they were also chairmen of the Tory Party, and were therefore not paid ministers; the job was a device to give them access to Cabinet meetings and ministerial papers.

Mr Mandelson, who is based in the Cabinet Office, and has responsibility for the presentation and co-ordination of government policy, is paid a ministerial salary of £31,125 in addition to his MP's pay of £43,860. As Tory chairman, Mr Hanley and Dr Mawhinney

were also ministers without a department.

But last week, the official Commons record, *Hansard*, published a definitive list of the new government, which put Mr Mandelson as number two in the Office of Public Service (OPS), under David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cabinet minister responsible for the Civil Service.

Mr Mandelson was given the same OPS post in the official *House of Commons Weekly Information Bulletin* this week.

As one of three Ministers in the OPS, Mr Mandelson would have been available for questioning by MPs in the Commons on 4 June, immediately before the new, weekly half-hour session of Prime Minister's Question Time.

But Whitehall sources said yesterday that there had been a mistake: *Hansard* and the *Bulletin* had got it wrong: Mr Mandelson was not part of Mr Clark's team in the OPS; and he is therefore not available for oral questions in the House. A spokeswoman said, however, that he would answer written Commons questions.

Hague blames defeat on Major

Bell touches down for flying visit to runway warriors

Michael Streete

John Major Bell's visit to Northern Ireland has been welcomed by some, but criticised by others. The former prime minister is due to meet with political leaders and ordinary people across the region.

A White Paper setting out the Government's detailed plans for the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament will be published "well ahead" of the referendums, Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, told the Commons.

Ministers will use the referendum results to limit the challenges to the main legislation by Tories, anti-devolution Labour MPs including Tam Dalyell, and the House of Lords.

The Tories are expected to table amendments for thresholds to be achieved in the referendum, in the Bill's committee stage, which will be taken on the floor of the House after the Whitsun recess.

Mr Dewar warned the Tories they would be accused of "ballot rigging" if they tried to "reverse" the 40 per cent rule – requiring a yes vote from at least 40 per cent of all eligible voters, of which the 1979 Labour

referendum foaled.

Michael Howard led Tory protests that the people of Wales and Scotland would be asked to vote in the referendum on the principle of devolution before the main legislation to establish the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament has been introduced in Parliament. And Mr Howard warned that the Union would "begin to fray in a matter of months".

The chasm between the two root boozes over the passage of the Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill threatens to continue through the summer as the Tories, under a new leader, are expected to campaign for a "No" vote.

However, the Tories came under immediate fire from the Liberal Democrats for being allowed to open the debate for the Opposition, when they had failed to win any seats in Scotland and Wales in the election.

Rejecting the claims that the Tories lacked legitimacy to oppose devolution, Mr Howard, the former home secretary, said Labour feared the public would turn against devolution, if they knew the details before the referendums were held.

"That is why the Government

is resorting to this unprecedented and anti-democratic approach," Mr Howard said. There were also Tory backbench protests, led by Bill Cash, a leading Eurosceptic over the refusal to allow English voters a referendum. But Labour MPs shouted: "They have had a vote – and you lost mate!"

Mr Dewar said there was genuinely a mood for change in Britain. He promised the substantive legislation would be introduced before the end of the year, and elections to the new Scottish Parliament would be held as "soon as practical after Royal Assent – I believe we can have a parliament in place to welcome the millennium."

**Colin Brown**  
Chief Political Correspondent

The Bill to pave the way for devolution for Scotland and Wales was given an overwhelming second reading in the Commons last night with a promise that referendums will be held by the end of September.

A White Paper setting out the Government's detailed plans for the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament will be published "well ahead" of the referendums, Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, told the Commons.

Ministers will use the referendum results to limit the challenges to the main legislation by Tories, anti-devolution Labour MPs including Tam Dalyell, and the House of Lords.

The Tories are expected to table amendments for thresholds to be achieved in the referendum, in the Bill's committee stage, which will be taken on the floor of the House after the Whitsun recess.

Mr Dewar warned the Tories they would be accused of "ballot rigging" if they tried to "reverse" the 40 per cent rule – requiring a yes vote from at least 40 per cent of all eligible voters, of which the 1979 Labour

#### PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS SCORING THE EXCHANGES

<b>Tony</b>	8/10
<b>John Major</b>	5/10

#### THEMES OF THE DAY

Major's attack	Labour's
Anti-drive	Labour's
Lifting of the ban	SNP's
EDL	Conservative's
Government	Labour's
The	Glasgow Mayfield

#### MAJOR'S ATTACK

GOOD DAY	BAD DAY

Paddy Ashdown	Labour's
that have left the leader of the Opposition. After a good day, the new format also allows him to ask questions, rather than simply sit shaking his head at the Prime Minister's answers.	He added: "I'm not sure that he needs to shake his head at the Prime Minister's answers."
THE QUIP OF THE DAY	Labour's
John Major's anti-driv	Labour's
THE UNANSWERED QUESTION	Labour's
THE CREEP OF THE DAY	Labour's

GOOD DAY	BAD DAY

Paddy Ashdown	Labour's
that have left the leader of the Opposition. After a good day, the new format also allows him to ask questions, rather than simply sit shaking his head at the Prime Minister's answers.	He added: "I'm not sure that he needs to shake his head at the Prime Minister's answers."
THE QUIP OF THE DAY	Labour's
John Major's anti-driv	Labour's
THE UNANSWERED QUESTION	Labour's
THE CREEP OF THE DAY	Labour's

GOOD DAY	BAD DAY

## Hague blames defeat on Major

**Anthony Bevins**  
Political Editor

John Major's Conservative government was tarnished by the perceived sleaze, greed, self-indulgence and division of society, the Tory leadership contender William Hague said last night.

His most brutal criticism of party failings was reserved for Mr Major's leadership. While trying to soften the blow by arguing that he was not criticising any individual, he said that his call for a fresh start meant uniting the party behind a clear position – rather than "fudge".

"One of the lessons of the past few years," he said, "is that it is easier to unite the party behind a clear position than a constantly shifting fudge."

Mr Hague told a meeting of Tory activists that he wanted to be the leadership choice of "the whole party", and that he wanted "to rebuild the Conservative Party to be the driving force in British politics and in world politics at every level once more".

But before embarking on the foundations on which the party could be rebuilt, Mr Hague got back over the causes of this month's "humiliating rout".

While Labour had been bequeathed the best economy since the First World War, and Britain had been changed for the better by 18 years of Conservative government, the Tories had failed, he said. "We were voted out of office because we lost the faith, the confidence, the goodwill of the electorate. Because we failed to communicate with people..."

"We were voted out for reasons of sentiment as well as substance. The free and prosperous society that we had championed became tainted with the image of sleaze, greed, self-indulgence and division. Some Conservative Members of Parliament appeared arrogant and detached from the grassroots of the party. After 18 years in power, our message of freedom was lost."

As for the political principles on which the party had to be rebuilt, Mr Hague said he wanted the Conservative Party to be the party of the environment, on the basis that "private owners are better stewards of the environment than the state".

A decent education was central to Conservatism, he said, and on the issue that still divides his party, "we need to be in Europe, but not run by Europe".



Ulster tour: Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, meeting residents in the Catholic Garvaghy Road, Portadown. Photograph: Paul McErlane

Does your current  
health insurance  
offer you a subsidy?

It's time to consider a different way of getting cover.

With PPP Healthcare, you could get a subsidy of up to £1000 towards your annual premium.

And you could get a free quote online or over the phone.

Call now and get your first month free.

0800 33 55 55 Ref: 6363

Ask for your no-obligation free quotation. Instant cover available. Credit cards welcome.

(8am-8pm weekdays and 9am-1pm Saturdays) Calls may be recorded. PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE ABOVE.

FROM AROUND  
£8  
A MONTH

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms	Name
Address	
Postcode	
Tel No. (Day)	(Evening)
Date of birth	/ /
(Important: we cannot give you a quotation without this date.)	
Name of other adult to be included	
Number of children under 16 to be included	
If you have a current healthcare policy, please give your renewal date	
/ /	
Ref: 6363	

Call now and get your first month free  
0800 33 55 55 Ref: 6363

Ask for your no-obligation free quotation. Instant cover available. Credit cards welcome.

(8am-8pm weekdays and 9am-1pm Saturdays) Calls may be recorded. PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE ABOVE.

now.

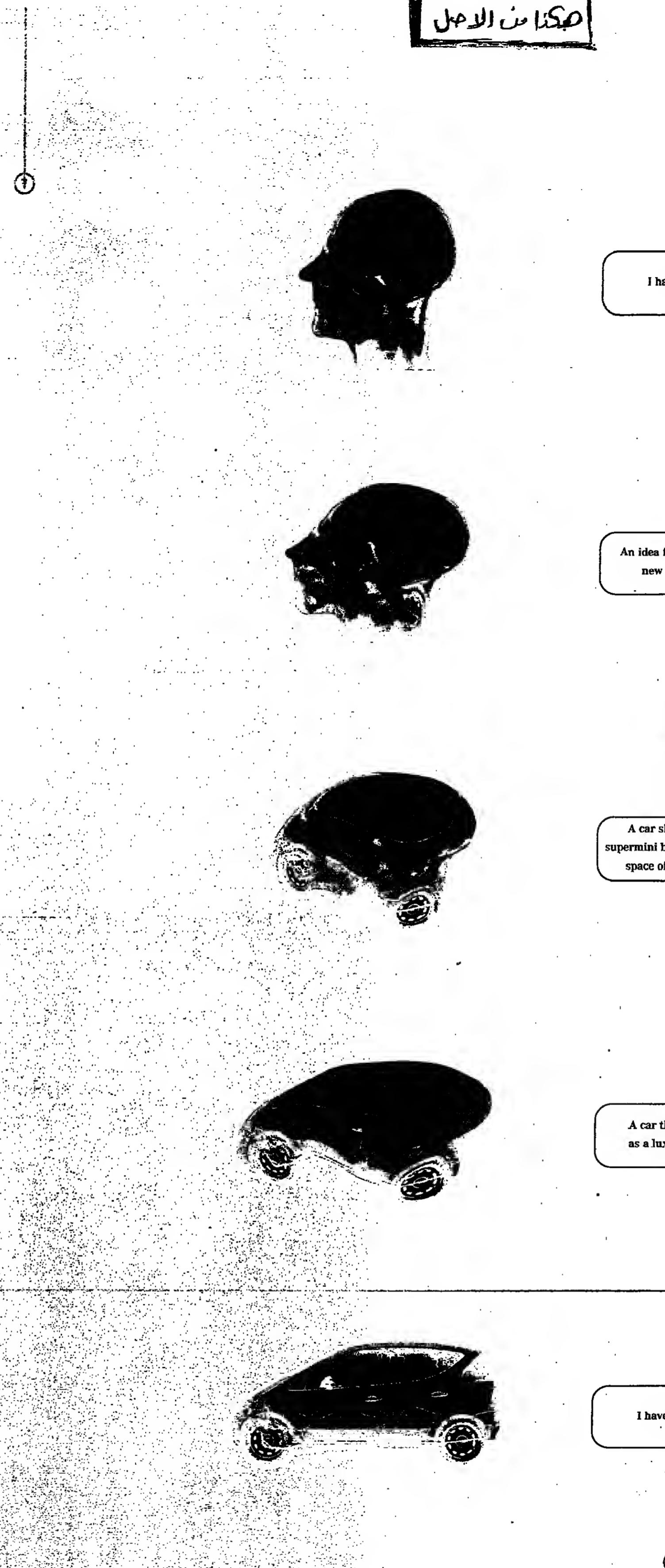
DELL

1344 724000



Strong  
medicine  
for bad  
doctors

جدة من الأصل



## Big ideas in a small space

The A-class from Mercedes

Call 0800 225 277 or post the coupon

The A-class from Mercedes. A car featuring revolutionary concepts. Such as the sandwich floor. It houses part of the engine, transmission and axles, and raises seats by 20cm. Therefore in a head-on crash, the engine is safely pushed under the passenger compartment; in a side-on crash, impact is below the passenger cell.

Call 0800 225 277 or post the coupon: Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd, FREEPOST LON112540, London E14 4BR.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

1225

The A-class. Available from spring 1992.



A-class

# Woman deaf since birth wins new deal for disabled

Patricia Wynn Davies  
Legal Affairs Editor

A woman who has been profoundly deaf since birth has won her campaign for the right to extra benefit which she argued she needed in order to have a social life.

Rebecca Halliday was entitled to higher-rate disability living allowance (DLA) to cover a sign-language interpreter who would help her lead a normal social life, five law lords said yesterday in a key ruling against the Department of Social Security which opens the way for a better deal for deaf, blind and other severely disabled people.

The test-case decision in favour of the 22-year-old could be of crucial importance to thousands of disabled people after the judges backed their right to have social lives and rejected the DSS's argument that social ac-

tivities were "non-essential" so did not qualify for the non-means-tested benefit under the relevant rules.

Lord Slynn said that a severely disabled person "is not to be confined to doing only the things which totally deaf [or blind] people can do and provided with only such attention as keeps him alive in such a community". What was important was whether the attention was "reasonably required" to enable a person so far as possible to live a normal life.

Ms Halliday, who works at a school near her home in Newark, Nottinghamshire, will now receive the £33.10 a week higher rate DLA for care during the day, instead of the lower rate of £13.15. She said: "I am delighted. Now I can move forward and plan for the future."

David Thomas, legal officer for the Child Poverty Action Group, which backed the case, said: "This is a great



**Victory speech:** Rebecca Halliday at home in Fiskerton, Nottinghamshire, after the law lords ruled in her favour yesterday

Photograph: Dave Burner

victory. It opens the way for severely disabled people to have their real needs for a normal life considered."

Tin Sergeant, a spokesman for the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, said: "It's all very well saying deaf people can talk to each other but they want to have full social lives and meet people outside the deaf community."

Laura Jacobs, manager of the RNIB's benefits rights team, said the ruling could make "all the difference" to the lives of visually impaired people because the social and leisure needs of claimants would be taken into account in benefit decisions rather than just absolute necessities. The DSS had argued that totally

blind or deaf people should never be entitled to DLA (or in the case of claimants over 65, attendance allowance), because no amount of help would enable them to see or hear. But the philosophy of government policy and the recent Disability Discrimination Act, which is reflected in yesterday's ruling, is that disabled

people should be helped to live as full lives as possible.

The DSS faces a substantial potential increase in benefit pay-outs after the Halliday ruling but emerged the victor in a parallel test appeal against a refusal of attendance allowance. The judges ruled "reluctantly" that the need for an

incontinent arithmetic to pay for someone to take away laundry did not call for frequent attention in connection with "bodily functions" as required by the law. Despite losing the appeal, however, the claimant, 71-year-old Gladys Cockburn, now receives the higher rate of £33.10 because her general condition has deteriorated.

## When you look around a Packard Bell...



...it's easy to see why we're Britain's Best Selling Home PC.

 **Packard Bell**

Available from  
**Currys** **Dixons**

## Father loses fight to halt wife's abortion

Patricia Wynn Davies  
Legal Affairs Editor

A father has no legal right to prevent his wife from aborting their unborn child, a Scottish judge ruled yesterday in a landmark judgement.

The ruling from Lord Eassie provoked the condemnation of pro-life groups and Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of Scotland's 750,000 Roman Catholics, who recently mounted a campaign, including offers of financial support, to try to persuade women not to have abortions.

But the decision confirms, as is the case in England and Wales, that a foetus has no legal rights. Nor do fathers or the courts have the power to override the opinions of doctors under the 1967 Abortion Act.

James Kelly, of Inverkeithing, Fife, went to the Court of Session in Edinburgh to stop his estranged wife Lynne, a 21-year-old singer, from having an abortion and to seek custody of the baby and the couple's daughter.

Mr Kelly launched an immediate appeal, but Lord Eassie said it was clear that the law intended doctors to make the decision. Quoting from an earlier case, he said: "The great social responsibility is plainly placed by the law on the shoulders of the medical profession."

### DAILY POEM

Scape

By Conleth O'Connor

overhead, the moon dodged passing clouds,  
disturbing illicit copulation.  
(natural law is an illusion)  
windows on office blocks shuddered  
as their nakedness was penetrated.  
brass plates twinkled condescendingly  
at their neon neighbours.

somewhere far off, a mad motorist  
ferreted through country roads  
escaping the clutching ditches.

back in the city, footpaths sneaked  
through halfdoors, ran silently  
outback and collided in the distance  
at things we foolishly call mountains.

Conleth O'Connor, who was born in Co Wexford, wrote about the Dublin suburbs where he lived, and died in 1993. He published four collections of poetry. *Nights Without Stars, Days Without Sun* is a selection from these, with some previously unpublished poems. It is published by Arc Publications (£5.95) and is available from Arc at Nanholt Mill, Shaw Wood Road, Todmorden, Lancashire OL14 6DA.

Renewing your home insurance  
in May or June  
and want to save money?

If you are 50 or over call free!  
**0800 414 525**  
quoting reference  
**ID5712**

**SAGA**  
Services Ltd  
Lines open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 7pm  
Saturday 9am - 4pm  
Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may use your details in other Saga companies for this purpose



Desert world: Mars, the red planet, photographed by the Hubble telescope  
Photograph: Nasa

## Doubts surface over life on Mars

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

**Life on Mars?** The question mark is getting bigger. A study by American scientists has cast fresh doubts on the announcement last August by the US space agency Nasa that it had found fossils of living cells in a meteorite from Mars.

A team at the University of Hawaii, led by Edward Scott, said their analysis indicated that carbonates in the rock – taken as key evidence of life – were formed as part of a high-impact shock, and not long-term processes conducive to life.

The research, published today in the science journal *Nature*, adds weight to those opposing the Nasa conclusion. While the original paper – published in *Science* magazine in the US – sparked enormous public excitement, the research papers that have since cast doubt on it have received comparatively little attention.

Last August, a multi-disciplinary team led by Nasa announced that tiny holes in a 16-million-year-old piece of meteorite known as ALH 84001 might be the remains of ancient Martian bacteria.

Since then, the meteorite has been examined by teams of

researchers around the world. Those who say it could harbour fossils cite evidence that the carbonates inside the rock formed at moderate temperatures over long periods of time.

The idea is that mineral-rich water percolated through tiny cracks in the rock, creating an environment in which bacteria could grow.

But others say it looks like the carbonate molecules formed in a hot flash – like that caused by a meteorite impact – which would make it less likely that living bacteria were once in there. Scott's group backed the "hot flash" camp.

"We find that carbonate, plagioclase and silica were melted and partly redistributed by the same shock event responsible for the intense local crushing of pyroxene in the meteorite," they write.

Nasa is planning missions to Mars to scoop up and analyse rock and soil to see if any similar traces can be found.

**The weather forecast for Nasa's Pathfinder probe, due to arrive on Mars on 4 July, is changeable. Pink skies, no clouds, temperatures rising to minus 40C. Planetwide dust storms. Later, clear blue skies, colder, minus 87C. brilliant ice clouds, no dust.**



Supermodel: The winning picture in the British Birds magazine bird photograph of the year award of a cattle egret stretching its wings in Oman

Photograph: Jens Eriksen

## Female scientists get raw deal

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

Female scientists get a raw deal from the "peer-review" system, used in almost every country to determine who gets funding and jobs, according to a surprising study from Sweden.

According to researchers at Göteborg University – who had to go to court to get access to the confidential data from which they drew their conclusions – a woman researcher has to be 2.5 times more productive than a man in order to impress

a panel of interviewers equally. Furthermore, nepotism is rife: if an applicant, whether male or female, is known by the interview panel to have worked with a colleague, then that makes them more likely to win funding.

The work, published today in *Nature*, is the first time that the deliberations of the interview panels who decide on professional advancement for scientists has been objectively studied.

It also casts a cloud over the repeated efforts of schools, universities and government to

encourage more women to go into science, since it shows that prejudice is deep-rooted.

The peer review system used in Sweden, like that in the Britain and the US, presently determines who gets funding for work.

"I found the results very surprising," said Philip Campbell, editor of *Nature*. "The only way I can see it changing, apart from raising awareness, is to conduct peer reviews where the gender is concealed."

One female scientist who has recently completed a PhD

at a British university – but wished to remain anonymous – confirmed the findings of the paper. "It's a lottery," she said.

"If you're in a group putting forward a grant proposal, then it's crucial who you nominate to present it to the panel ... the trouble is, nobody can think of a better system."

To produce the paper, the Swedish researchers – two women, one a microbiologist and an immunologist, at Göteborg University – had to go to court and apply under Sweden's Freedom of the Press Act for

access to the confidential interview scores.

According to the researchers, Christine Wenneberg and Agnes Wold, "peer reviewers gave women applicants lower scores than male applicants who displayed lower levels of productivity. In fact, the most productive group of female applicants ... was the only group of women judged to be as competent as men, although only as competent as men, although only as

studies going as far back as 1968 have shown that both men and women rate work done by a man more highly than that of a woman if they know the sex of the worker – but not if the gender is obscured.

The researchers also point out a further reason for gloomy prospects for women scientists worldwide: their study only looked at the peer review system in one research council in Sweden – the country recently named by the United Nations as the best in the world for equal opportunities.

### ADVERTISEMENT



0345 95 95 95

Call us on 0345 95 95 95  
Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm  
Saturday 9am to 5pm  
Sunday 10am to 4pm  
Calls will be taken by friendly telephone operators who will send a straightforward, clear information pack.

## Welcome to Virgin Direct's tax free zone



Virgin Direct's index tracking fund follows the All-Share Index as doggedly as a bloodhound

### A way through the savings maze

Deciding between the hundreds of different ways to save is never easy. We launched Virgin Direct in 1995 to offer customers a straightforward way of making their savings work harder. Our no-nonsense approach has already attracted over 150,000 customers. People like the way we've cut out salespeople and their commission so that more of their money is working for them.

### What's a PEP?

 PEPs (Personal Equity Plans) were introduced by the Chancellor in 1987 to encourage people to save. The Virgin Growth PEP is a simple and tax efficient way of investing in the stock market. If you leave savings in a bank or building society you may only be rewarded with pitifully low interest rates – and usually you have to pay tax! So it's not surprising that in less than two years we've attracted over £1 billion of money from investors looking to grow their savings tax free with a company they can trust.

### On the right track

 We looked at nearly a thousand PEPs before designing our own, so we knew exactly what needed to be done to beat them. Our investment strategy doesn't depend on expensive and unreliable fund managers. Virgin Direct simply invests your money in more than 900 of the largest companies on the London Stock Exchange, which make up the FTSE Actuaries All-Share Index.

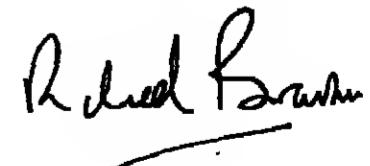
Pooling your investment across such a wide range of companies reduces the risk of poor performance from any one company. What's more, with this approach, the Virgin Growth PEP has always been in the top 10% of funds of its kind.\*

### The facts

- If you're thinking of getting a PEP, you should be prepared to keep your money invested for at least five years. But you have full access to it whenever you want.
- You can either invest a lump sum of between £1,000 and £6,000 each tax year or save regularly from as little as £50 per month.
- Please remember that while a PEP offers potentially higher returns, your capital is not at risk in a building society but it is in a PEP.

To find out more about the Virgin Growth PEP, call us for an information pack.

At Virgin Direct we offer straightforward, good value for money products and no gobbledegook. Plus the outstanding level of service you associate with Virgin!



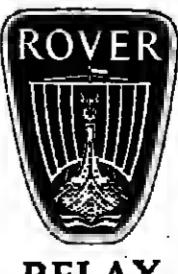
In 1990s  
Britain a  
Pakistani  
with a  
degree has  
as much  
chance of a  
job as an  
uneducated  
white man

# "A ROVER 200 FOR £9,995? WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IN MY DAY!"

What day was that then?

Rovers have always cost less than most people think. Take the Rover 214 shown here. A sure footed, agile, elegant Rover for just £9,995\* on the road.

Call 0345 186 186 for details, or visit your local Rover dealer.



RELAX.

\*MANUFACTURERS' RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICE. MODEL SHOWN ROVER 214 £9,995. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDES 12 MONTHS ROAD TAX, DELIVERY TO DEALER PREMISES AND NUMBER PLATES. SUBJECT TO VEHICLE AVAILABILITY.

it's in LSD

# In 1990s Britain a Pakistani with a degree has as much chance of a job as an uneducated white man

Jojo Moyes

Ethnic minority students, especially those of Asian origin, are outperforming their white counterparts—but still are struggling to translate this success into their employment prospects, says a major study by the Policy Studies Institute.

*Ethnic Minorities in Britain*, the fourth in a series of reports which have charted the experience of migrants and their families since the 1960s, found that among people of working age, Chinese, African Asians and Indians tend to be more qualified than whites, following a significant push for educational status among second-generation migrants.

But this does not necessarily guarantee them a better job. The study found that a completely unqualified white man has the same job prospects as a degree-educated Pakistani or Bangladeshi. Minorities are still seriously under-represented in top jobs, suggesting the exis-

tence of a "glass ceiling". "Many black and Asian people are in worse jobs than white people despite having similar qualifications, and the education system is failing young black men and Pakistani men and women, who continue to be disproportionately without qualifications," it concluded.

The report shows that there are wide differences in the experiences of minorities, especially in the area of income. The report found that more than 80 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis live in households with incomes below half the national average, making them the poorest group in Britain.

By contrast African Asians and Chinese are more likely than whites to earn more than £500 per week and have low unemployment rates.

Tariq Modood, the main author of the report, said that diversity among minority groups was now just as important as the "black-white divide". "People who are not white in Britain are

should not be an excuse for ignoring the racial disadvantage faced by other groups," said Richard Berthoud, one of the authors. "The diversity in experience means that policy will have to be more complex. You can't simply have another race relations Act."

One significant development was the conclusion that mixed relationships are clearly on the increase.

Of those born in Britain, half of Caribbean men, one-third of Caribbean women and 20 per cent of Indian and African men now have a white

partner, said the report, which cost £1m to produce.

Four out of every five "Caribbean" children have one white parent, while half of Caribbean families with children are headed by a single parent.

Racial harassment continued unabated, including insults and abuse at the hands of strangers, neighbours, workmates and police. Twelve per cent of those interviewed said they had been racially abused or threatened in the past year, and a quarter said that they worried about the possibility of attack.

Black and Asian people were more likely now than 10 years ago to believe they had been unfairly treated by employers.

The survey of 5,196 people of Caribbean and Asian origin, together with 2,667 white people to provide a comparison, was the largest ever survey of ethnic minorities in Britain.

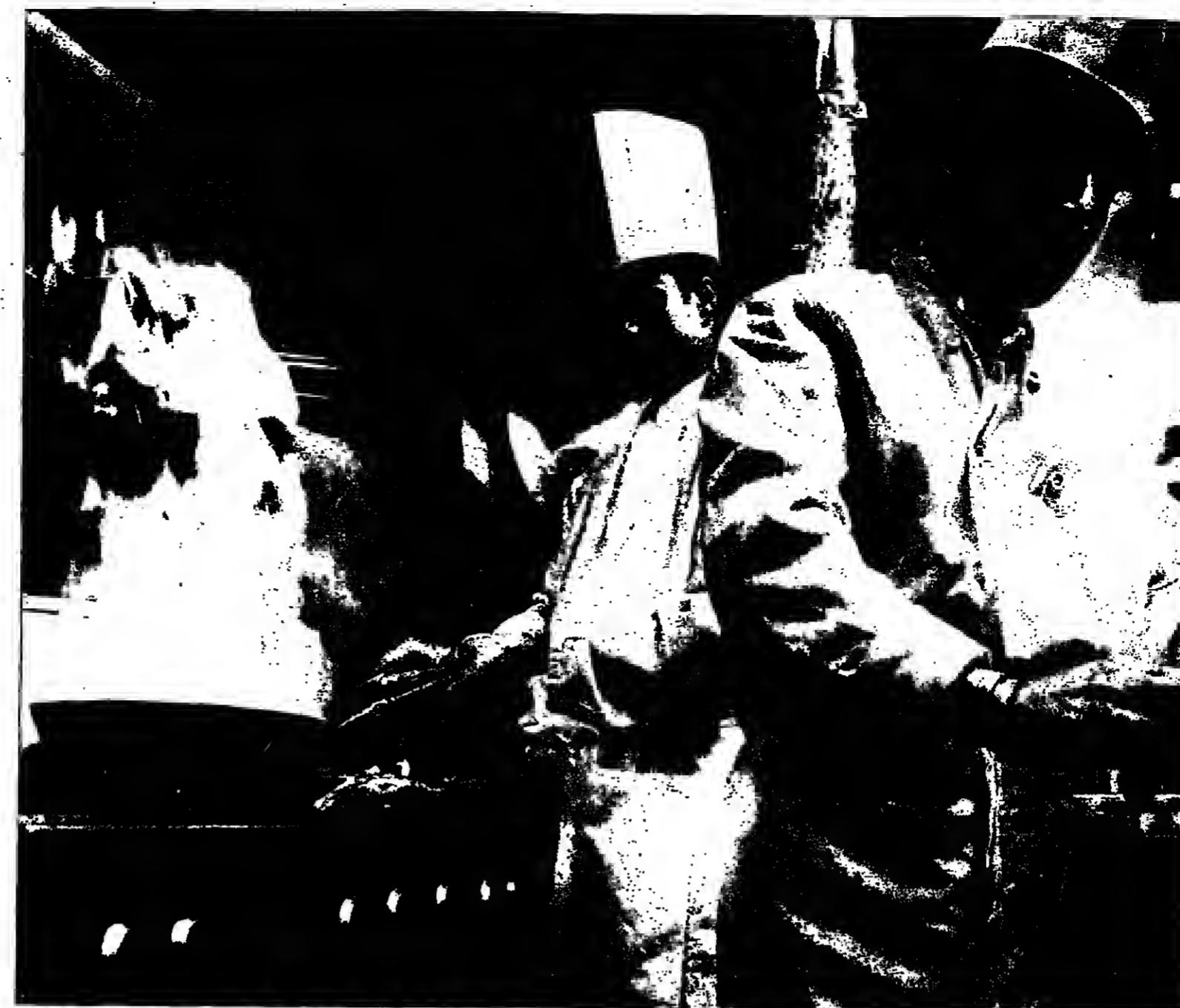
*Ethnic Minorities in Britain: diversity and disadvantage*: Tariq Modood, Richard Berthoud, et al; BEBC Distribution - 01202 715 555; £17.50.

Figures in brackets denote women, while those with an asterisk denote small sample sizes.

## Joblessness – how the races compare

Qualifications	Rate of unemployment (%) by highest British qualification				
	White	Caribbean	Indian/ Afro Asian	Pakistani/ Bangladeshi	
None	19 (13)	42 (19)	20 (13)	46 (54)	
O-level or equivalent	11 (10)	31 (16)	20 (10)	36 (42*)	
A-level or higher	12 (7)	23 (16)	12 (12)	17 (18*)	

Figures in brackets denote women, while those with an asterisk denote small sample sizes.



## RAF's order to go - 4,300 miles

Louise Jury

When RAF Flight Sergeant Dave Powell decided to send out for a curry for his Nato friends on exercise in frozen Canada, he wanted only the best.

And the best, he had decided on his honeymoon last month, was Tandoori Night in St Helier, Jersey.

Restaurant Sultan Al-Mahmood left the Channel Islands two days ago with enough chicken tikka masala, madras and vindaloo for 75, to fly 4,300 miles to Canada.

Flt Sgt Powell was confident that the most elaborate curry-takeaway service yet arranged will go a long way in the cause of international co-operation.

He and his air force colleagues sat down with Nato allies from New Zealand, Holland and the United States for the feast last night.

"I thought it would be a fantastic idea to have an Indian takeaway so they could get a taste of a real English delight," he said, with due deference to Britain's multi-cultural society.

Flt Sgt Powell is a member of No 8 squadron, normally based at RAF Waddington, Lincoln. They flew out to Cold Lake airbase near Edmonton 10 days ago for their fortnight stint with exercise Maple Flag.

A traditional part of proceedings is to offer a little hospitality at the end of exercises. But a locally produced buffet is the norm.

"This is very unusual," Flt Sgt Powell said. "But it's very important that we all co-operate together. It's camaraderie."

Mr Al-Mahmood arrived at the airbase yesterday. He took over a mess to prepare the dishes, many of which were frozen for transportation.

As for the bill, Flt Sgt Powell said the British taxpayer should not worry. "The RAF won't be partaking in any costs. The financial arrangements have been made privately between Mr Al-Mahmood and myself."

Flt Sgt Powell will be having the chicken vindaloo. "Most of the RAF like hot spicy food," Mr Al-Mahmood said.

## It's Alive

A flash of inspiration... The sizzle of fresh electricity... It's the dawning of a new computer era — the first no-compromise PC — powered by the Intel Pentium® II processor has arrived!

For months we've been working with Intel to take the world to the next level of computing. By adding MMX™ media enhancement instructions to their most powerful processors ever, the heart-stopping Intel Pentium II processor was created! Beyond the immediate effects of increased power and technology, you'll also enjoy software compatibility well into the future.

The Intel Pentium II processor is the "brain" of our new feature-rich system line. Excellent for the power-hungry user at work or play, we've designed our systems to give maximum power and performance. The limits of this PC will be decided only by your imagination.

Maybe your needs are simple — a multimedia machine that pushes the power envelope. Your quest will end once you check out the Gateway 2000 G6-233M. The G6-233M also comes with Altec® Lansing ACS410 Speakers and ACS251 Subwoofer.

And to make sure you get THE system you've been dreaming about — we'll let you custom configure your PC. All of this and it's affordable — direct from Gateway 2000.

Don't wait any longer — the computer you've been yearning for is finally here! Give Gateway 2000 a call today!

### G6-233M

- Intel 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 32MB EDO RAM, 512K Ultra Fast L2 Cache
- 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 12-16X (min-max) CD-ROM
- Quantum 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Ultra ATA Controller
- Ensoniq® 32-Bit PCI Wavelet Soundcard
- Altec® Lansing ACS410 Speakers with ACS251 Subwoofer
- STB® VIRGE GX 3D Graphics Accelerator, 4MB EDO RAM
- EuroViva 33.6K Data/Fax/Voice Modem
- 17" CrystalScan® Colour Monitor
- ATX Tower Case
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 I/O5 Keyboard
- MS® Windows 95, MS IntelliMouse
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition Plus
- Internet Software Bundles
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

£1749 (£2089.15 inc. VAT & Delivery)

Give Gateway 2000 a call today or drop in to the Gateway 2000 Showroom, 10 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HE. You'll be glad you did!

Showroom Hours of Business:  
12.30 pm - 6.30 pm Mondays  
9.30 am - 6.30 pm Tuesdays - Friday  
10.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturdays  
Closed Sunday and Bank Holidays

**FLEXIBLE BUSINESS  
FINANCE OPTION.  
CALL FOR DETAILS**

**GATEWAY 2000**  
"You've got a friend in the business."  
**0 800 39 2000**  
<http://www.gw2k.co.uk>

All configurations and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. © 1997 Gateway 2000 Europe Ltd. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Gateway 2000 Ireland Ltd., 300 Coliemore Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN. All trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective companies. All rights reserved. Intel and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All prices quoted in Sterling. All offers subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions. Standard delivery price is 10 working days from receipt of the CRT screen. Actual delivery time can be up to 12 weeks.



**pentium® II**

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' - What Mortgage Magazine.

## Moving house?

Call Direct Line for a cheaper mortgage.

Not moving house? Ditto.



- It doesn't matter whether you're moving house or not, you can still move your mortgage to Direct Line.
- It could save you almost £50\* a month.
- You can borrow up to 90% of the value of your home.
- There's a free valuation.
- No early redemption arrangement or mortgage indemnity fees.
- Direct Line guarantees to save you 20%† on your existing buildings insurance.
- If you transfer your mortgage without moving house Direct Line will pay your legal fees\*.
- Call now, we're waiting to beat the banks and building societies.



0181 649 9099

LONDON

0161 831 9099

MANCHESTER

0141 221 9099

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Bank Holiday Monday opening hours 8am to 8pm. Please quote ref. IND118 [www.directline.co.uk](http://www.directline.co.uk)

# Chirac refuses to let sleeping Euro dogs lie

John Lichfield  
Paris

The French parliamentary elections are supposed to be all about Europe. But Europe is a dog which has stubbornly refused to bark during the campaign.

In the past couple of days, President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppé have gone out of their way to try to wake the ungrateful beast. They have warned that a victory for the left, in the two rounds of voting over the next two Sundays, will leave France with a weak and muddled position in the European Union, especially on the single currency.

President Chirac, who is the-

oretically uninvolving in the campaign, made his comments, flanked by French and European flags, during a visit by Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. France would only be able to defend its European interests if it "spoke with one voice," he said, not with a right-wing President (himself) and a left-of-centre parliamentary majority and government.

Mr Juppé followed up with a prediction that a victory by the French left would plunge the EU into an "economic and financial crisis". The Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin, has said that, as prime minister, he would try to soften some of the budgetary and economic conditions for the single currency, as now rigorously interpreted by the Germans, French and others.

Judging by the lack of interest in EU issues around the country, the belated warnings suggest a certain anxiety, even desperation, in the government camp. Although the last publishable polls forecast that the present centre-right coalition will win narrowly in the second round on 1 June, the advantage is fragile and based on uncertain arithmetic.

President Chirac's decision to call the election nine months early was intended to be a smash-and-grab raid which gave the government, led by his Gaullist party, a relatively easy victory. It may still turn out to have been an inspired gamble but, three days before the first round, the governing camp is clearly edgy.

*Le Monde* yesterday reported a private conversation in which the education minister, François Bayrou, leader of Force Démocrate, one of the centrist parties in the governing coalition,

said: "For the last three days, I've had a bad feeling about this campaign. I don't know why, but I have a bad feeling."

Five weeks ago President Chirac gave Europe, and the need to take difficult decisions on the single currency, as one of his principal reasons for calling an early poll. With public opinion in France broadly pro-Euro, the President hoped the coming European challenges would help to marshal a majority behind the existing, unpopular government.

In reality, neither Mr Juppé nor Mr Jospin, has been confident enough of his European ground to make European monetary union (Euro) a central part of his campaign. The voters, if interested in the election at all, have focused on purely national issues such as unemployment, and the government's state-dismantling reforms, without making the connections with European policy.

Only the political extremes - the National Front on the right and the Communists on the left - have made Euro, and their virulent opposition to it, an important part of their platforms.

Even the belated interventions by President Chirac and Mr Juppé seemed unlikely to start a European debate as such. Mr Jospin chose to see their remarks as an attack on his ability, if he wins, to operate in "co-habitation" with President Chirac. He said France had managed to speak with "one voice" on EU affairs during previous "co-habitations" in 1986-88 and 1993-95 between a Socialist president and a centrist government. It would do so again, with the political colours reversed, he said.

## significant shorts

### Karadzic 'may surrender to war-crimes tribunal'

Radovan Karadzic, Bosnia's most wanted war-crimes suspect, is considering surrendering to an international tribunal with documents compromising Serbia's president, a new report said. There was no confirmation of the report, published by Belgrade's independent *Nasa Borba* paper, which quoted sources it did not identify. But it said Mr Karadzic, Bosnian Serb political leader during more than three years of war, already had handed documentation to unidentified countries and possibly to the tribunal in The Hague. It said the documents included details on who gave orders to Bosnian Serb forces during the 1992-1995 war, and compromised the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic.

AP - Belgrade

### Bomb trial gets emotional

Oklahoma City bombing prosecutors aimed for an emotional end to their case, with a survivor recalling how a routine meeting was shattered when "the whole building started to blow up." After a case that has seen 136 witnesses in 19 days, prosecutors sought to leave jurors with a big emotional punch, never letting them forget the 168 people who died in the 19 April, 1995 blast. Timothy McVeigh, a Gulf war veteran, could get the death penalty if convicted of murder and conspiracy in the blast, the deadliest act of terrorism on US soil.

AP - Denver

### Sino-British body's last gasp

The Sino-British body overseeing Hong Kong's reversion to China will meet once more before the handover. The Joint Liaison Group, which worked out many of the details leading up to the colony's return to China at midnight of 30 June, will meet on Thursday and Friday of next week in Hong Kong, the government said.

Reuters - Hong Kong

### Denmark's Schengen threat

Denmark's Justice Ministry says it may have to drop out of the European Union's visa-free travel zone, the Schengen agreement. The possibility stems from the introduction this week of a proposal for an EU agreement including closer police co-operation among the 15 member-nations and common immigration policy. Denmark will try to negotiate opt-outs from the new proposal. But the Justice Ministry says that if Denmark maintains those exceptions, the country could be forced to leave the 1985 Schengen treaty.

AP - Copenhagen

### Billet-doux for all to read

Eight months after being thrown out of Monaco's royal palace for cheating on his wife, a talkative and repentant Prince Daniel Ducruet has written a love letter to his beloved Princess Stephanie. The trouble is, the rest of the world can read it too. In "Letter to Stephanie," published in Paris this week by Editions No 1, Mr Ducruet, Stephanie's former bodyguard and the father of their two children, speaks of their clandestine affair, their marriage and its unhappy ending. Excerpts were published in *Paris-Match* magazine this week.

AP - Paris

### Moscow kowtows to Chechens

Russian officials apologised to Chechen leaders a day after Russian jets intercepted and grounded a plane carrying a Chechen delegation to The Hague. The plane left the Chechen capital, Grozny, again yesterday and was allowed to fly to the Netherlands.

AP - Moscow

### Prostitutes solicit the public

Prostitutes in Antwerp hold an open day on Saturday to break down barriers with the public and prove the red-light district is safe, the organisers said. "We want to show what's really going on here, that it's not a crime-ridden area," said a spokesman.

Reuters - Brussels

NOW YOU CAN EARN  
AIR MILES  
JUST BY PICKING UP  
THE PHONE



Such is the simplicity of our VODAFONE ADVANTAGE® programme.

First off, you earn AIR MILES awards just for registering. From thereon, as you use your

mobile phone your AIR MILES awards start to accumulate. With yet more added as a bonus every quarter. And a further bonus awarded to mark your first anniversary as a member, and every anniversary thereafter. Only one mobile phone network offers its customers

AIR MILES awards - Vodafone - Britain's most popular mobile phone network.

To join VODAFONE ADVANTAGE, simply call our free Helpline number 0321 321 321 or dial 3213 from your Vodafone (again, no charge). The sooner you ring in, the sooner you can ring up those AIR MILES awards.

CALL FREE ON

0321 321 321

or dial 3213 free from your Vodafone

\*Participating Service Providers only, excludes customers on the Vodafone PrePay tariff. AIR MILES and the Flying Boat logo are trademarks of AIR MILES International Holdings N.Y.

refuses  
keeping  
dogs lie

# Turkey's ruling Islamist party faces ban

Christopher de Ballague  
Ankara



Turkey's chief prosecutor yesterday launched moves which could lead to the banning of the country's main government.

The Welfare Party and its Islamist leader, Necmettin Erbakan, have never got on with Turkey's secular-minded lawyers. Yesterday, Vural Savas, the chief prosecutor investigating the party, formally opened a case in the Constitutional Court, arguing that the Welfare Party endangers the basic tenets of the secular Turkish state. If it is successful, Welfare will be closed down.

The Constitutional Court has rarely shirked from banning parties it considers a threat to Turkey's unitary, secular identity. Pro-Kurdish and leftist parties are traditional favourites, although another Islamist party led by Mr Erbakan was shut down in the early 1970s. This is the first time, however, that the court has been asked to train its sights on a party in power.

If the court sympathises with

excess, but has had less luck with unruly colleagues. Mr Savas's report highlights this assertion by Ibrahim Cilik, a Welfare deputy: "If the Imam Hatip (religious schools) are closed while Welfare is in power, blood will flow. It will be worse than Algeria. I want blood to flow."

Banning the Welfare Party, might, paradoxically be the best way to ensure that blood does indeed flow. Mr Erbakan evidently agrees. Yesterday, he declared, "secularism has no better guarantor than Welfare".

Other Turks argue that the party provides a safety valve for hard-line Islamists who would otherwise favour armed struggle. Without this valve, so the theory goes, the extremists will co-exist – with some justification – that Turkish democracy is deficient, and take up arms.

Perhaps more important are the political pressures to which the Constitutional Court – as guarantor of a judicial system rarely considered impartial – will be subjected. When the court announces its decision in a few months, it will do so with the authority of Turkey's establishment.



Unparliamentary: Deputies brawling as Turkey's opposition leader Mesut Yilmaz this week accused the government of being unable to rule. Photograph: AFP

## Junta clamp on Suu Kyi's supporters

Associated Press

lakeside compound in hopes of avoiding arrest.

The sweep came to light on the day US sanctions banning new investment in Burma went into effect in protest at the military's increased repression. The two events did not appear connected.

The arrests were the junta's latest attempt to box in Ms Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, since curtailing her political activities and freedom of movement last year.

The congress of her National League for Democracy (NLD) was called to mark the seventh anniversary next week of the election in which her supporters won 82 per cent of the vote. The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) refused to relinquish power and parliament never convened.

Amnesty International described 1996 as "the worst year for human rights since the government annulled the elections," and said: "Now the Slorc seems determined to eliminate the party altogether."

Arrests took place in Mandalay, Sagaing and Irrawaddy divisions and Mon State, all far-flung provinces. Some 200 members of the parliament-elect and 100 party organisers were invited to the meeting from around the country. Kyi Maung, NLD vice-chairman, said several members were taking refuge in Ms Suu Kyi's

Rangoon – Burma's military regime, slapping down a fresh challenge from the pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, rounded up scores of her supporters to stop her holding a party congress.

## international

# Nazis, child abusers, or just good, clean-living workers?

Police move in on Chile's secretive and controversial 'Dignity Colony'

**Phil Davison**  
Colonia Dignidad, Chile

Some call him "the professor" for his knowledge and oratory. Others call him "the doctor" for his surgery in the local hospital and wartime experience as a medical orderly in Hitler's army. The German orphans he raised in Chile are encouraged to call him "our eternal uncle" to emphasise their lack of parents.

Whatever they call him, Paul Schaefer is now an old man on the run widely suspected of being a serial child abuser and active Nazi sympathiser. He is accused of heading a "state within a state" at the sinister "Colonia Dignidad" and what was once a horrific rent-a-torture chamber on this ranch in southern Chile.

Following years of outrage among Chileans, notably as the country began to flirt with democracy, police moved into Dignity Colony on Tuesday as snow fell on the pines and peaks east of the main gate. The carabineros gave the impression they were searching for Mr Schaefer as well as for illegal arms reputedly stockpiled.

After several days of tension this week, many Chileans fear that the ranch lands, in the ferocious foothills of the Andes, 220 miles south of Santiago, could become "Chile's Waco", a reference to the bloody attack by United States federal agents on the Davidian sect in Waco, Texas in 1993. Apart from child abuse and kidnapping – allegedly including the snatching of children from Germany – the ranch's 300 or so German residents have also been accused

of trafficking in arms. They deny all such charges as "lies, fantasies and communist propaganda", specifically blaming Chilean and German socialist politicians, and say they are just hard-working folk.

Perhaps embarrassed by its long-time name of Colonia Dignidad, the 35,000-acre ranch's 300 or so German residents now refer to it as Villa Bavaria, in Spanish, or Bavariaville. Not only does the landscape resemble Bavaria, but the German

at that time, opponents of General Pinochet were taken to the remote area and dumped into underground torture chambers for electric shock treatment to Wagner or Mozart, according to accounts from eyewitnesses, including repentant Pinochet agents. German-speaking doctors reportedly administered drugs to torture victims.

The governors of Chile and Germany call Mr Schaefer their most-wanted man. They say he is wanted in both countries for multiple child abuse, child kidnapping and sodomy. His Colonia Dignidad, they say, is a den of iniquity whose mostly German residents are forced to work for no pay and whose children are forced into homosexual sex.

Mr Schaefer was a medical orderly in Hitler's army, became pastor of his own Lutheran sect in the Bonn area in the Fifties and fled on bail in 1961 after being charged with sexually abusing children at a youth home.

The Chilean police could hardly have used a more softly-softly approach when they entered the ranch on Tuesday, describing their incursion as "a visual inspection". Liberal Chileans were embarrassed and

colonists do not hide their affinity with Bavaria's conservative Christian Social Union Party.

Human rights groups and those who fled the "colony"



Laying down the law: Residents of Colonia Dignidad, in Chile, during their second week of hunger strike in 1994 as a protest over the group's loss of legal status. Photograph: Reuters



Over the wire: Police talking with members of the German 'colony' on Tuesday. Photograph: AFP

God's sake." Indeed they do.

The "colony" increasingly looms as a new threat to Chile's still-sensitive democracy, with the government of Eduardo Frei and his civilian police pitied against the traditional military establishment headed by General Pinochet.

Former Chilean intelligence agents and their victims have asserted that the German colony was used by the general's military regime, after the 1973 coup that overthrew and killed the Marxist president Salvador Allende, to torture, kill and experiment on leftists. Some later identified Mr Schaefer as "the

doctor", saying he had spoken German and administered drugs to study their effects on torture victims. General Pinochet himself was said to be a good friend of Mr Schaefer.

The colony's German farmers and Chilean supporters insist Mr Schaefer is simply a hard working German immigrant and devout Protestant who sees nothing wrong with people working the land 14 hours a day, seven days a week, with no recompense other than the land's yields.

He went underground because he fears a witch-hunt against him, they say.

A rare glimpse this week in-

side the perimeter of the colony showed women working dressed Quaker-like in calf-length frocks and black stockings.

Reaching the colony requires a rough 45-minute drive over a pot-holed gravel path east of Parral. While many of the 20,000 townsfolk of Parral criticised "Los Alemanes" (the Germans), those farmers are protective of them because of vital mutual trade, and their own free use of the colony's hospital and school.

Critics say the hospital and school are simply a charitable front to shield something more sinister. Some believe it is child abuse, others arms trafficking, but no one comes up with any more proof than has emerged from colony defectors.

Some Chileans say Mr Schaefer is an illusory figurehead. They believe he and his followers may have been placed as a diversion to attract attention from what may have been a long untouched refuge for former Nazis or Nazi sympathisers.

"I first visited them in the Sixties. My first surprise was the air strip, then the walkie-talkies every 100 yards," said Osvaldo Murai, of the Chilean magazine *Ercilla*. "I thought what are they trying to hide?"

Later, it occurred to me that the Israelis were hunting all sorts of ex-Nazis throughout South America and what a good place to hide this would be."

Figurehead or no, Mr Schaefer is on the loose. Most likely, in this huge area of southern Chile that he has controlled for three and a half decades.

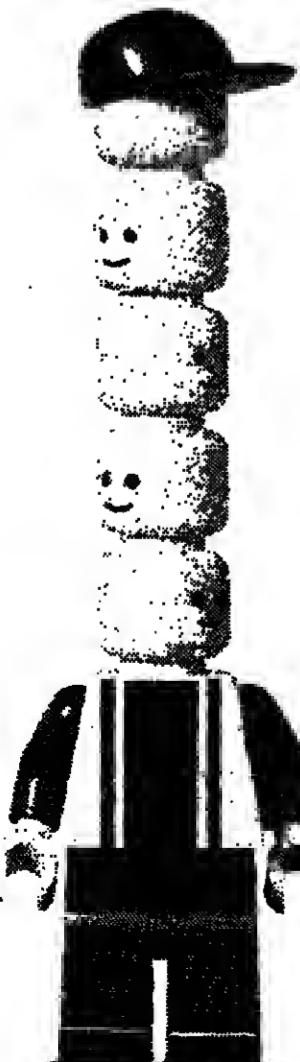
Mr Schaefer and a handful of friends set up Dignity Colony in 1961 after he fled the child abuse charges in Germany. Five years later, the first reports of abuse began to emerge after a teenage orphan, Wolfgang Mueller, fled the colony.

Last night, Mr Mueller, now in his forties, repeated his allegations to reporters and expressed astonishment that the Chilean authorities had still taken little or no action. "I think it's a real scandal," he said. "I remember the first night I arrived, Mr Schaefer abused me. I was just 12 years old but I had to stay all night with his bed."

Also 12 years old when he arrived here with Mr Schaefer was Herr X, a German who reluctantly spoke to me. "I was one of the first half dozen to come here in '61," he told me in strongly accented Spanish. "He practically educated us. We grow wheat here and corn... we do mechanical work. We're self-sufficient. The criticisms of our lifestyle are pure fantasies, spread by German politicians."

"I can honestly say I've never seen people who respect life more than the inhabitants of this colony," added Jaime Mora, a local engineer, and a member of the so-called Circle of Friends who support the Germans. "They love life."

**"RIDES,  
LIVE SHOWS  
AND  
ATTRACTIIONS.  
I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHICH  
WAY TO  
TURN!"**



Fret not. You've got from 10am to 6pm to pack everything in. From the Pirate Falls to the new Space Tower. Book now on 0990 04 04 04 or pay on arrival.

Prices are all inclusive; £12 for kids, £15 for adults.

So head head head head for Windsor today.

**LEGOLAND**  
WINDSOR

## ARE YOU PAYING MORE THAN

# £59.99

FOR A  
HIGH BACK  
OPERATOR  
CHAIR

SKU E61776

- Gas lift seat height adjustment
- Spring loaded back rest

COMPLETE WITH  
ARMRESTS  
FOR COMFORT



LOW  
PRICE  
PROMISE  
OUR PRICES ARE  
NEVER BEATEN  
Ask in store for details

FREE DELIVERY  
ON ORDERS OVER £25 EX VAT £15.00 INC VAT  
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER CALL TOLL FREE  
**0800 14 14 14**

**STAPLES**  
The Office Superstore

FOR YOUR NEAREST STAPLES STORE  
**CALL 0990 55 66 22**

OPEN TO TRADE & PUBLIC  
7 DAYS A WEEK  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5  
SATURDAY 9-5  
SUNDAY 11-5  
OPEN THIS  
BANK HOLIDAY  
MONDAY 9-5

All prices shown are member prices. Membership is free. It's instant and can be arranged by visiting or telephoning your local store.  
\*MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED IN EXETER, HULL, POOLE, READING, LEGOLAND & TELFORD, BUT PRICES SHOWN REMAIN VALID.  
All items are subject to availability. Staples stores are based on recommended retail prices set by the manufacturer. Staples effort has been made to ensure that the prices and descriptions are correct at the time of press. However, as manufacturers' specifications and prices can change, Staples reserves the right to alter or amend prices of offers without prior notice. © Staples UK cannot be reproduced without their permission. Some newspaper offers are only available in-store. Please ask for details.

BUSINESS MACHINES  
OFFICE FURNITURE  
STATIONERY  
COMPUTERS  
SOFTWARE

Piano Island  
to sound of  
turbulent

GULANG  
ISLANDS

Palestine  
by 'the

Arab  
corn  
path



**PAYING  
HAN**  
.99

**TAPLES**  
tonic  
55 66 77

# Palestinian gagged by 'thought police'

Palestinian police yesterday detained a prominent Palestinian journalist in an apparent effort to prevent the live broadcast of the proceedings of the Palestinian parliament. The arrest of Daoud Khatib is the latest move by the security forces of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to bring the Palestinian media under his total control.

Earlier Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which rules the Palestinian enclaves, had jammed Mr Kuttab's television station, whose transmissions are the only way the Palestinian public can find out what goes on in the Palestinian Legislative Council, which they elected last year. The police are apparently eager to prevent the broadcast of allegations of corruption and brutality by the Palestinian leadership.

Mr Kuttab, an American-Palestinian who lives in Jerusalem, was detained after he was called to the police station in Ramallah, an autonomous Palestinian enclave. His brother Jonathan said: "He got a call at 11pm last night to go to see Captain Paris of the criminal police to talk about the broadcasting of the Legislative Council. He phoned me from the police station in Ramallah at 2.30am to say he had been detained."

Mr Arafat's administration is

Arafat's men keep lid on claims of corruption and brutality, writes Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem

deeply sensitive to attacks by members of the Palestinian parliament over its conduct of peace talks with Israel, reliance on 11 different security forces and use of torture. Such criticism is never mentioned by the official Palestinian press, radio or television, which always laud Mr Arafat and his lieutenants.

In order to publicise their proceedings, the Legislative Council several months ago gave Mr Daoud's Al-Quds Education Channel the right to

broadcast them live. To his astonishment he found that he was being jammed. Nabil Amr, the head of the Palestinian Broadcasting Company (PBC), the official Palestinian TV, denied that his facilities were being used for the jamming. But the reality proved to be different. When Mr Kuttab visited the PBC, he found the control room guarded by policemen and technicians inside involved in jamming his station.

When Mr Arafat took control of Gaza and Jericho in 1994, many Palestinian journalists hoped that at last they could have their own media, free from Israeli control. But systematic intimidation by Mr Arafat's security forces has ensured it is becoming as compliant and uncritical as anything in Damascus or Baghdad.

Intimidation sometimes starts even before an article is even published, as Jibril Salameh, a lawyer in Gaza, discovered last month when he submitted a piece he had written to a local law journal. He daringly suggested that there was a lesson for Palestinians in

the way the Israeli police, investigating a political corruption scandal, had vigorously questioned Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and his justice minister. He asked: "When will we see such examples implemented in the Palestinian Authority territories?"

Not only did Mr Salameh's article not see the light of day, but a lawyer on the journal passed it on to Khalid al-Kidre, the Palestinian attorney general. Mr al-Kidre promptly signed an order for the author's arrest, citing security reasons, and Mr Salameh disappeared into prison for ten

Bassam Eid of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group says that among Palestinians freedom of expression has become very limited. He repeats a sour little joke he heard in Gaza: "A man in Gaza has a toothache. He complains to his friends about it. His friends ask: 'Why don't you go to the dentist?' He replies: 'What is the point of going to the dentist when I'm forbidden to open my mouth?'



Kuttab: Attempted to show parliamentary proceedings

## Israel looks to control West Bank water rights

The war for the control of land on the West Bank and Gaza escalated yesterday with an Israeli proposal to deny Palestinians the right to drill for water and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, confirming that Palestinian land dealers who sell to Israelis will face the death penalty, writes Patrick Cockburn.

Ariel Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister and an opponent of Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, is proposing that Israel declare its sovereignty over as much as 50 per cent of the water resources on the West Bank. A likely effect of the proposal is that Israel would pull back from a smaller proportion of the

West Bank than is demanded by the Palestinians.

Mr Arafat, in an interview with the daily *Yediot Aharonot*, said yesterday that Palestinian land agents who sell to Israelis were "a few traitors and we will apply what has been determined by law against them". He said that a Palestinian living in the West Bank towns of Hebron or Nablus could not buy land in Israel. Two Palestinian land dealers have been killed this month and a third has disappeared.

Controversy is still continuing over the United States government claim, leaked to the Israeli press, that 26 per cent of the houses in Jewish settlements on the West Bank and in

Gaza are empty, and the expansion of settlements is therefore unnecessary. The Israeli Central Board of Statistics say the true figure is about 12 per cent, which confirms the basic American point.

Israeli political observers note that the secret survey of Jewish settlements and the leaking of the results is the third time in as many weeks that the US has punished Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. Earlier in the month an official in Washington leaked information about an Israeli spy in the US administration. The US is also marginally reducing aid to Israel and giving more to Jordan.

## Piano Island echoes to sound of China's turbulent history

This is the only place in China where pianos outnumber bicycles. On Gulangyu Island there are more than 350 pianos – and no bicycles. No cars, either.

As one walks along the pedestrian-only roadways, it is music and birdsong that filter through the banyan trees, not traffic noise or pile-drivers. Ivy-covered wrought-iron gates open up to vast colonial-style shuttered mansions. Around one corner, a pretty white church sits in landscaped gardens. The air is clean, and not one smokestack chimney can be seen. This really is China?

Gulangyu offers that rarest of commodities on the Chinese mainland – peace and quiet. The British had an eye for the island's potential as a comfortable repose when in 1842, after the first Opium War, they forced China to open Xiamen on the south-east coast as one of the foreign treaty ports. Across the harbour sat verdant Gulangyu, and that was where the interlopers were enticed by the scenery to set up home. A dozen foreign consulates were soon established, and with them came the missionaries – and lots of pianos.

"We have many pianos from Britain, because the climate here is damp so British pianos are better," said 59-year-old Yin Chengdian, who runs the island's music school. And the one-square-mile "Piano Island", as it is called by the 20,000 inhabitants, is determined to live up to its reputation. There is the ferry building, which is shaped like a piano; and the island's concert hall, shaped, you guessed it, like a piano.

The history of the piano on Gulangyu is the history of the island itself. "In the second half of the 19th century the Western missionaries came here and brought the music," said Mr Yin. A tradition was quickly established. "The wives of the missionaries were very good music teachers. So they taught the local

Chinese." As Gulangyu developed as a Western enclave, scores of wealthy overseas Chinese also started in drift back, and built themselves stately European-style mansions, faced with exquisite art deco stonework and stucco decoration. And with them came more pianos.

Even the Japanese invaders came in 1938, the music played on. Then in 1949, in the wake of the Chinese Communist victory, the Westerners and rich overseas Chinese departed. But all the pianos were left behind," said Mr Yin.

During the first years of the new order, piano playing was politically acceptable, and by 1959

**GULANGYU DAYS**

At the end of 1976, after the death of Mao Tse-tung, the music re-started just as suddenly as it had halted. Mr Yin was the piano accompanist at the first public concert. "The young singers gave a better performance than the older ones who were shaking so much they could not sing very well," he remembered.

His now infamous brother left for America as soon as he could. Plans for a music school started in 1980 on top of a hill in a converted Thirties American missionary church. There are 180 full-time students.

Across Gulangyu, some old homes, including the Yins', have been returned to their original owners. Others have been renovated as holiday homes for powerful state work units.

Drawn by the seafood as much as the music, China's leaders often find the time for an inspection tour of Gulangyu. One photograph shows the prime minister, Li Peng, triumphantly holding a lobster at the Huang Yan Dong restaurant in 1995.

Deng Xiaoping came in 1984,

and Richard Nixon also made it to the island. Like all VIPs

they stayed at the Gulangyu Hotel, built in 1923 as a private house by the Huangs, an overseas Chinese family from Indonesia.

The Huang descendants are

not in residence. A hotel manager reluctantly explained: "The property belongs to the Huang family but the government runs the hotel and pays rent to the Huang family," she said. How much rent? "Well, in the past, the government did not pay any rent." So how much do they pay now? "Well, they don't actually pay rent now." So how does the Huang family feel about this? "Maybe the Huang family wants it back, but we don't know how to solve this problem."

The Christian Yin family, like many others, were thrown out of their home. Mr Yin's famous pianist brother decided collaboration was the best chance of survival and became a favourite composer of revolutionary ballads – such as "A new song from the countryside" – for the Gang of Four.

Teresa Poole

Writing on the wall as Iranians go to the polls



Joint favourite: Iranian women walking past posters of the Iranian Parliamentary Speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nousi, who has backing from key clerical groups in his quest to become president in tomorrow's elections

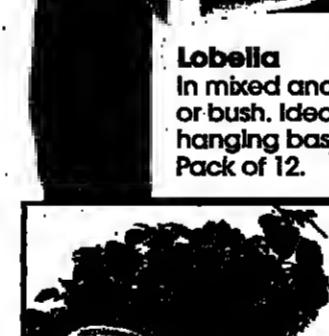
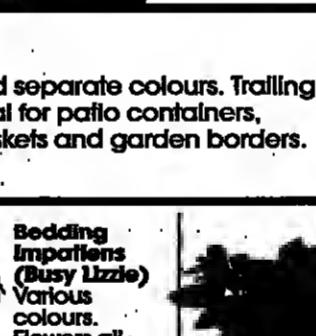
Photograph: AFP

 <p>Fuchsia Various colours and varieties. Trailing and upright. Suitable for planting up hanging baskets and patio containers. 9cm pot.</p> <p>£1.29 each</p>	 <p>Trailing &amp; Upright Geraniums Named varieties and various colours. 11cm pot.</p> <p>£1.99 each</p>	 <p>Fischer Geranium Large flower heads in vibrant colours. 13cm pot.</p> <p>£2.99 each</p>
<p>Also available Puchsia 11cm pot. (Not shown).</p> <p>£1.99 each</p>		

**"These Lobelias will look great in a hanging basket or in your garden border."**



JACKIE SIMPSON  
Garden Sales Assistant  
B&Q WORKINGTON

 <p>Lobelia In mixed and separate colours. Trailing or bush. Ideal for patio containers, hanging baskets and garden borders. Pack of 12.</p> <p>£1.89 per pack</p>	 <p>Bedding Impatiens (Busy Lizzie) Various colours. Flowers all summer. 6 pack.</p> <p>£2.99 per pack</p>	 <p>Begonia Available in white, pink and red with bronze or green foliage. 6 pack.</p> <p>£2.99 per pack</p>
 <p>Bedding Petunias Various colours and varieties. 6 pack.</p> <p>£2.99 per pack</p>	 <p>Geranium Named varieties and various colours. 6 pack.</p> <p>£3.99 per pack</p>	 <p>French Marigold Large bright gold, lemon and bronze flowers. 6 pack.</p> <p>£2.99 per pack</p>
 <p>Patio Rose Various colours and named varieties. 3 litre pot.</p> <p>£5.49 each</p>	 <p>Clematis Blue Moon An excellent variety with pale blue flowers. 3 litre pot.</p> <p>£7.99 NEW</p>	 <p>Hardy Fuchsia Named varieties and various colours. 2 litre pot.</p> <p>£2.49 each</p>

**KEY  
SEASON  
PRICE** Find any of these plants for less locally and we'll refund DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q  
Pick up a leaflet in store.  
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.  
Certain stores hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.

OPEN ALL BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND  
Monday–Wednesday: Most stores 8am–8pm.  
Saturday: Most stores 8am–8pm.  
Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am–8pm.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 8am to 8pm.

TERMINATE BIGGEST DAILY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900

Internet - <http://www.bq.co.uk>

Key Season Price products are clearly marked in stores. If you find one for less locally we will refund double the difference. At the lower price is generally available to any customer and that you call back within 14 days with your B&Q receipt. This excludes price comparisons made with B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots. Other may vary. B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots sites shown are open Monday. Offers subject to availability. Most of our stores have garden centres, please phone to check before travelling.

**B&Q**  
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

## international

# Kabila keeps low profile as new era dawns

Mary Braid  
Kinshasa

Yesterday was Day Zero for the people of Kinshasa. Laurent Kabila, the new leader of the rechristened Congo-Zaire, took over the reins of power in the capital, sparking a frantic jostle outside the city hotel which has become the temporary headquarters for his new government.

Hundreds of men and women in their smartest clothes brandished curriculum vitae as they battled with security guards to get into the building in the hope of securing a job with the new regime.

"You see how desperate people are," said Paul, an unem-

ployed graduate who has been working as a translator. "Everything before is swept away – all the old patronage – and now people are insecure and uncertain."

Paul added that the low-key arrival of Mr Kabila in Kinshasa on Tuesday night – and his absence from public view since – had added to the unease replacing the wholesale euphoria which followed the ousting of Mobutu Sese Seko.

"We can see Kabila does not feel safe because he did not come during the day time," said Paul. "And that makes us all nervous."

As civil servants and white-collar workers fought for survival outside the hotel housing

Mr Kabila's alliance party, Mr Mobutu's former soldiers were queuing to sign up for Mr Kabila's army.

Earlier in the day, two of Mr

Mobutu's generals, Amela Lukima and Michel Elessi, jeered by a crowd of youths, turned themselves in at the city hotel.

The military transformation seemed to be going better than the political. Mr Kabila's aides met yesterday with political groups, including the city's most popular opposition figure, Etienne Tshisekedi, who had non-violently opposed Mr Mobutu's 32-year rule.

The alliance has repeated its commitment to holding elections. But last night Mr Kabila

had still not announced the members of an interim government, which would include opposition politicians. He had originally promised to do so within 72 hours of taking pow-

er. Mr Tshisekedi's supporters were out on the streets of Kinshasa in force, demanding he be made prime minister after Mr Kabila's appointment of himself as president.

But at a meeting of Zimbabwean businessmen yesterday, the South African president, Nelson Mandela, castigated Western countries for lecturing Mr Kabila on

democracy. He suggested that this was rich, given the West's long support for the former dictator Mr Mobutu. President Mandela said Mr Kabila was already making good his pledges.

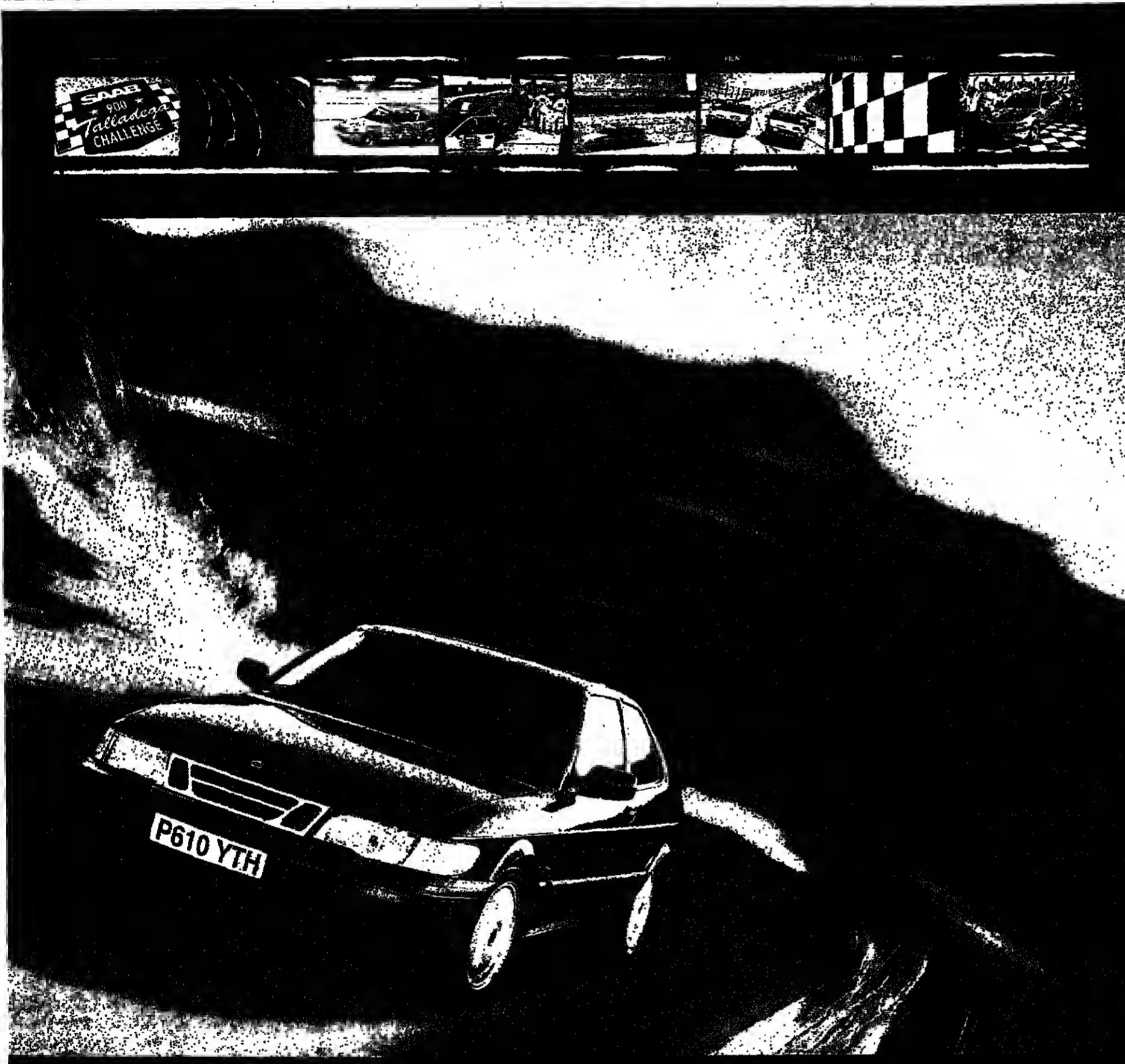
But there is considerable concern at the alliance's lack of readiness for the monumental task ahead – pulling this huge, bankrupt country, with a non-existent infrastructure, back from the abyss.

The local currency, already almost worthless, seemed to be in free fall yesterday. Many had expected the alliance to

Photograph: Corinne Dufka/Reuters



Old regime, old evil: Kinshasans viewing torture chambers yesterday inside the looted Civil Guard headquarters



25,000 miles flat out at 140mph.  
You'll never need to do it.  
But it's nice to know you can.

IF YOU'RE CONTEMPLATING TEST-DRIVING A SAAB 900, think about the one it's already had. We drove one around Alabama's Talladega circuit for 8 days and nights, non-stop, flat out (that's 25,000 miles, 140mph). In the process we broke forty international long-distance records. The engine, despite our best efforts, remained undamaged.

Clearly, it's nice to know that the Saab 900 possesses such power and endurance. Better still, it's nice to know it's not beyond your means. On the road, a Saab 900 will cost you from £15,500, whilst contract hire for business users is from £199 a month. To arrange a test drive, phone 0800 626 556. And on the day, remember to observe the speed limit.

£199 PER MONTH\* PLUS INITIAL DEPOSIT. CONTRACT HIRE SCHEME. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: SAAB 900I  
P610 YTH. 12 months. Deposit = £3,219.30. Monthly payments = 47x £199.00. On the road cash price = £15,500.00

**SAAB**  
beyond the conventional

TO SAAB INFORMATION CENTRE, FREEPOST WC452A, LONDON WC1B 3BR. PLEASE SEND FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SAAB 900  SAAB 9000 CD (SALOON)  SAAB 9000CS (SPORT)  
Name ..... Address ..... Postcode ..... IND5

Present car make & model ..... Year of reg ..... Age of driver ..... Are you under 18? ..... Attach your business card or phone 0800 626 556 or fax 0171 404 6449

\*Excl. down 20% 20% finance fee. Period of hire: 42 months. Deposit £3,219.30. Monthly payments 47x £199.00. On the road cash price £15,500.00. Extras: Vat, stamp duty, 8.5% p.a. per mile. Contract based on 10,000 miles per annum. Insurance included. Contract hire for business users only. Full written quotation available on request. Identification may be required in certain circumstances. All payments include VAT.

## Mobutu's men still walking tall in New York

David Usborne  
New York

Whatever may be happening in Kinshasa – the tearing down of images of Mobutu Sese Seko, the swooping into town at nightfall of Laurent Kabila, the renaming of an entire country – at the United Nations headquarters in New York nothing is happening.

Here, in the citadel of world diplomacy, business goes on just as before as regards the third largest country in Africa. "As of now," the chief UN spokesman, Fred Eckhard, confirmed yesterday, "Zaire is still Zaire". And he adds, "And Mobutu's people are still the people here and who we deal with".

Pear out of Mr Eckhard's first-floor window and there, waiting in a gentle May breeze, is proof of this Zairean limbo. The flag of Zaire, ten poles down from the Union Jack, still flies defiantly, a square of pale green with a black arm and fist at its centre.

Indeed, wander to the conference rooms in the bowels of the buildings to where the com-

mittees of the General Assembly are in session and there, apparently engrossed in the debate at hand, is a diplomat from the mission of Zaire – one of, as Mr Eckhard puts it, "Mobutu's people".

None of this is considered particularly strange at the UN, which is perfectly used to countries suddenly reinventing themselves. The break-up of the Soviet Union brought the biggest reshuffle in the flagpoles outside ever. (The flags are hoisted from north to south according to alphabetic order).

Soon, one assumes, Zaire (and the gentleman still at the mission) will vanish from here too. Once a new government is formed, it must do two things: formally present a new ambassador to the UN, the credentiailling of whom would then be approved by a UN committee. No problem is likely there.

It must also inform the UN Secretariat of the country's change of name. "Once there has been a critical mass of other governments recognising the new government, then we will make that acknowledgement also," said Mr Eckhard.

## Harvard caught up in Moscow row

Phil Reeves  
Moscow

Allegations of doubtful practices and ill-judged speculation are two a penny in Russia, where corruption has thrived since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Boris Yeltsin has pledged to clean the place up - a commitment echoed yesterday by the arrest of a former deputy defence minister and chief military inspector, Konstantin Kobets, on bribe-taking charges.

But even the most hardened Moscow cynic will have raised a small eyebrow at the latest claims to surface here - that staff from Harvard University no less, that emblem of respectability and good practice, have been abusing their positions as advisers to the Russian government and misusing funds.

These amount, it should be stressed, only to allegations, like most Russian scandals. But according to the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Boston Globe*, the US government has suspended a \$14m contract with the university after a preliminary investigation found that two staff had "abused the trust of the United States government by using personal relationship for private gain".

Since Russia's economic reforms began in 1992, Harvard scholars have been advising the Russians on how to manage the

transformation from a centrally planned to a free-market economy, a task that has included explaining how the capital markets function.

According to the newspaper, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has written to Harvard to say that two employees - the general director of the world-renowned Harvard Institute for International Development, Jonathan Hay, and the project director, economics professor Andrei Shleifer - went beyond that brief.

The agency has reportedly claimed that Dr Hay "used resources financed by USAID to support the private investment activities" of his colleague, Dr Shleifer's wife.

Support staff, paid by the American government, have been buying and selling bonds, compiling information about tax and tracking investments.

The two men's Washington-based lawyer, Michael Butler, said the USAID's letter was "wrong in its conclusions, wrong in its assumptions, inaccurate in its facts and foolish in its rhetoric".

The case is certain to run and run, doubtless spawning law suits as it goes.

But for Russians it is, at the very least, a reminder that all is not always as rosy as it sounds either in the cradle of democracy or in the stratosphere of its academe.

uses  
ping  
's lie

# The man who holds the key to Hindley's future

**P**ublic opinion, a great home secretary once said, is a compound of folly, prejudice, wrong-feeling, right-feeling ... and newspaper paragraphs. On 1 May public opinion seemed to vindicate itself and, speaking with particular cogency about the need for political renewal, affirm our democracy. We witnessed the demise of a government that had become insensate, had swung too far from public sentiment. But, in a political culture in which right-wing tabloid newspapers owned by foreigners are so influential, hewing too close to perceived public sentiment can become a recipe for cowardice and retreat to the lowest common policy denominator.

A similar point can be made about the operation of the criminal justice system. To ignore the public's opinion about the gravity of certain offences and the fitness of punishment is to risk subverting the foundation of judicial legitimacy. For the courts to trim to passing flashes of public anger and immediate sensation would rob them of that particular quality of disinterest on which the rule of law equally depends.

At the fulcrum of the scales of justice sits that peculiar politician, the Home Secretary. That recent occupants of the position have played fast and loose with partisan disregard for consistency and dignity is neither here nor there. On the shoulders of the new Home Secretary, Jack Straw, lies responsibility for

upholding the rule of law while ensuring public sentiment about infractions is adequately recognised. The case in point is that of Myra Hindley.

She has benefited from the fashion for judicial review of executive decision-making. The murderer's lawyers have got leave to challenge Michael Howard's decision to affirm the Home Office's earlier imposition of a "whole life" sentence, amending a previous ruling that she serve a 30-year term. There may well be issues of procedure and propriety here. Given Mr Howard's carelessness and occasional indifference to legal form (first witness for the prosecution, Ann Widdecombe), it is possible he has given hostages to fortune. Say the court were to judge that Howard had acted outside his powers. All that would do is put Jack Straw in the front line; he would then have to decide what he is to do with Myra Hindley. But, almost regardless of the outcome of the judicial review, the new Home Secretary ought to make up his own mind on the case. For him to claim that his lips are buttoned is to let discretion take over from valour: it is tantamount to saying politicians ought to be permanently dumb in case their actions are challenged in the courts. That cannot be right.

As a Lancashire MP Mr Straw needs no instruction in how the memory of the Brady-Hindley crimes lingers, especially in the North-west. With time, other crimes and other events of horror fade



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL

TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2436

from public recollection, however long the relatives of victims may grieve; their perpetrators leave jail after serving their time, forgotten. But this offence has not been erased from public consciousness. Hindley's various noisy interlocutors and admirers have not helped her cause; nor has the long delay in her revealing the full extent of her crimes. Reports of her own demeanour do not paint a convincing picture of a penitent. Perhaps it was also the cultural context of the crime – a side of the Sixties so distant from the music and fashion that gripped the popular imagination. But is that relevant, if Hindley has

served an appropriate sentence and, like others who murdered in their youth, must no longer be considered dangerous? The trial judge said she should serve a very long time. She has. If the only considerations in the case were Hindley and the impartial operation on her of the homicide law, she would merit release.

But the Home Secretary must do more than check off boxes on a list of criteria. He has also to use his political imagination. At the use of that word some people will complain that the criminal justice system ought to be immune from politics. After all, our misgivings about mandatory sentences and

other "reforms" enacted by the Tories in recent years have been around the substitution of politicians' judgements for those of judges. As a broad principle it must be true that judges are largely there because they are better placed to execute justice than politicians, who are subject to whims and pressures that might undermine a balanced judgement.

But Jack Straw has responsibilities that no judge carries. On his shoulders rests public confidence in the legal mechanism, which is influenced by judicial outcomes. His, too, is the task of maintaining public order. The release of Myra Hindley threatens good order, both literally and figuratively. She would, out of jail, become prey. The media would hunt her, however many disguises and new addresses she went through. Avengers would stalk her. Considerable police resources would almost certainly need to be expended in her protection, and that would in turn feed public resentment and anger. To recognise this is not to bow down before the prospect of mob rule or succumb to atavism. No home secretary concerned for the good order of society would wish to provoke confrontation of this kind. That is the higher-minded reason for denying Myra Hindley her long-sought release.

There is a more cynical reason, but also one which will necessarily play a part. Jack Straw could be a first-rate Home Secretary. But he has a limited amount of political capital to expend.

He will have to take many more important decisions that either offend sections of his party or elements of the public. There is little point in wasting his political capital on Myra Hindley. He should be clear why he should keep this woman in custody, even if objectively she deserves her release. Public opinion about her is too fierce. For her own welfare incarceration must remain her fate.

## Unearthed: little nuggets

The Manchester runway tunnellers present us with a problem. Leading articles should, as above, consider the arguments, and stand on the side of right. But that approach is impossible to apply to people who call themselves Muppet Dave and Shagger, River Rats and Prities, live in camps called Jimi Hendrix Zion or Sir Cliff Richard OBE Vegan Revolution. The fact is a public inquiry was held, local people mainly want the runway, its builders have dealt with many objections, and digging the protesters out is going to cost taxpayers a lot of money. Still, you can't help liking them. As one air pollution expert apparently said on meeting them, these delightful nut-cases are "little nuggets of joy", and we would be poorer without them. Even though they are wrong.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Stop tinkering and just ban tobacco

Sir: In your editorial (20 May) you suggest that Labour's instinct is for blanket bans. As regards smoking, the Health Secretary's proposals are no such thing. I agree that there is something dishonest about making conduct associated with cigarettes such as advertising or sponsoring racing cars illegal but refusing to contemplate proscribing the act itself.

Tobacco smoking does more harm to health than any other external agent that we can identify. Our descendants will be completely hemmed that a government in the 1990s allowed cigarettes to be sold while also knowing the health havoc that smoking produces. In Southend we have a large lung cancer study and in the 1990s we have already had over 1,500 deaths from lung cancer and this is in a population of just over 300,000.

What is required is a proper government programme aimed at producing a total ban on cigarette sales. In order to minimise the social consequences in terms of jobs, this programme could be set over 20 years. This would give companies the opportunity to diversify and employees to find new employment. Acts such as banning advertising and sponsorship of sports, although steps in the right direction, are in fact only tinkering at the edges.

Dr TONY DAVISON  
Consultant Chest Physician  
Heart and Chest Clinic  
Southend Hospital  
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

Sir: Your concerns about the unprogressiveness of a state ban on tobacco promotion should be waved aside (leading article, 20 May). The addictive character of the product diminishes the smoker's ability to choose. The tobacco-related death toll of 300 per day would stimulate the most draconian action if it occurred as the result of any other activity – imagine if there was an air crash every day in Britain.

Frank Dobson's proposals do not go far enough. The tobacco industry's marketing budget should be visualised as a giant balloon of money – squash it down in one place and it will bulge somewhere else. To eradicate the industry's pernicious image-making, the Government will need to ban all forms of promotion, including arts and all other sponsorship, direct mail, loyalty schemes and so on. A partial ban could lead to a legislative "arms race", whereby tobacco companies devise even more ingenious promotional ideas, and the Government responds with controlling legislation. It would be sensible to anticipate the likely course of events and introduce a pervasive ban on all tobacco promotion from the outset.

CLIVE BATES

London NJ6

Sir: Your leading article of 20 May suggests that the NHS should start charging smokers. This is an excellent idea. Smokers should be made to take out private health insurance. A surcharge should be put on each cigarette packet, and when enough had been saved this would permit the smoker access to private healthcare.

Of course the present tax on each packet would have to be removed, which even with the health surcharge would more than halve the price, and the Exchequer would mean a sharp



increase in income tax rates all round. However, this would be much fairer than the present situation, as the tax on tobacco is the most regressive of all. At present, low-income smokers subsidise the health care of middle-class non-smokers, and then get told by newspaper editors that they should be at the back of the health queue because of their habit.

The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL  
(Ex-Smoker)  
Peterlee, Co Durham

Sir: Your editorial (20 May) refers to "cigarette money contributing mightily to the diversity of sport, to widening fields of attainment and so to the greater pleasure of the participating and watching public". I completely disagree. Sport is nowadays not nearly as enjoyable as it was 20 years ago. The love of sport, amateurism and mild professionalism has been totally ruined by the intrusion of corporate advertising and greed. Witness one footballer being "sold" for £1.5m.

GERALD F C KING

Richmond, Surrey

Sir: Your leading article of 20 May suggests that the NHS should start charging smokers. This is an excellent idea. Smokers should be made to take out private health insurance. A surcharge should be put on each cigarette packet, and when enough had been saved this would permit the smoker access to private healthcare.

The reality for many people is that drugs are not only socially acceptable, but socially ingrained. It is paranoid to suggest that there is some sort of identifiable subculture of drug abusers which must be attacked with words like

"launch" and "assault", and it is disingenuous to cite America as a success story. Whatever next? The policing miracle that was Prohibition?

I am not sanctioning drugs, nor am I pretending to know what the root causes are, but until these causes are identified and addressed and politicians and journalists leave the "moral" high ground and discard this farcical posturing about "being tough" on everything, there will be no improvements.

TOM CORNFORD

Selwyn College

Cambridge

Sir: Recent research by a Department of Health Task Force shows the taxpayer benefit sevenfold from every pound spent on drug treatment. But, in order to deliver this benefit from reduced crime, treatment and rehabilitation services will need the resources to lead this investment.

Our research shows that people are already driven away from treatment and into continued drug misuse by lengthening waiting lists. Drug services continue to report growing demand turned away at their doors – and even closure. The real successes will only come with new thinking on redirecting resources – and even the assets seized from dealers – into the treatment which the Government is right to herald as a key way forward.

ROGER HOWARD  
Chief Executive  
Standing Conference on Drug Abuse

London SE1

Sir: Could someone explain the ludicrous military vocabulary to which public figures always resort when discussing the use of illegal drugs ("Blair launches war on drug abuse", 19 May)?

The reality for many people is

### Blunkett can end schools apartheid

Sir: I was glad to see from Donald Macintyre's interview with David Blunkett (21 May) that the Government is open to ideas on ways to open up private schools, beginning with the former director-general sector. Mr Blunkett is right to say that it cannot be done by the taxpayer footing the bill for people who might previously have paid for themselves. Hence the proposal in my book *We Should Know Better* that a version of the University maintenance grant system be applied to any private school volunteering to open its doors to all talents. Parents of pupils (like those of students) would pay on a sliding scale.

In higher education the aim was to widen access, and it worked. Our best schools, like our universities, should serve the whole nation, rather than reinforce the privilege of the well-born. While I support the abolition of the much-abused Assisted Places Scheme, in the absence of more radical measures abolition alone could simply entrench the apartheid of which Mr Blunkett speaks. My scheme would stand the APS on its head: entry to once exclusive schools would be by right, not grace-and-favour.

I welcome many of Mr Blunkett's pronouncements to date, for instance on teaching methods. Yet I fear that progress will be limited while Britain, alone in Europe, has not one but two

educational cultures. Those who say that private schools are a distraction are merely avoiding the uncomfortable business of thinking. It is good to hear that Mr Blunkett is not among them.

GEORGE WALDEN  
London W12  
The writer was Conservative MP for Buckingham, 1983-97

### Ali's fate strips boxing of excuses

Sir: Your remarkable review of *When we were kings* (15 May) and today's article about sporting giants (20 May) are the most emphatic and dramatic indictments yet of the "sport" of boxing. Today Muhammad Ali, a heroic Titan of post-war decades, is a shambling incipient ruin of a man.

It would be amazing if this young ex-boxer's Parkinson's disease, an affliction of the elderly, were a coincidence. On the other hand, signs of Parkinsonism are very common in ex-boxers since they are part of the syndrome of brain damage caused by repeated blows to the head.

What further evidence do we need before the civilized world brushes aside the casuistic excuses for this most ignoble industry and bans boxing for good?

TONY VAN DEN BERGH  
former inspector of the British Boxing Board of Control  
HELEN GRANT MD, FRCP  
retired Neuropathologist  
London NW3

### Recycle coastal towns' sewage

Sir: The amount of water wasted through leaky pipes may be difficult to ascertain (letter, 20 May) but another source of waste is easily proven.

Every day, Southern Water discharges the waste/sewage from 400,000 people into the sea off the West Sussex coast. Over 99 per cent of this effluent is water – fresh water.

If all the coastal water companies used inland sewage works, with the latest ultra-violet radiation that kills off most of the bugs, the resultant effluent would be so clean that, instead of taking water from the rivers and lakes as they do at the moment, it could be discharged there to be used again.

KENNETH SCOTT

Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Sir: Does Ann Widdecombe's crusade against the Howardian forces of darkness reflect the cosmic law that like attracts like? There has been a lot of discussion about this recently and I have first-hand evidence to suggest that it may be so.

On Monday I was listening to the PM programme on Radio 4. Just before the broadcast of *Ann Widdecombe's statement to the House* about Michael Howard, I had been washing up a frying pan along with its thick reinforced glass lid. The moment the sound of Ann Widdecombe's voice came out of my portable CD/radio set, the glass lid on the frying pan shattered dangerously into many sharp fragments of varying size for no apparent reason.

This must prove that in order to recognise "something of the night" in another person, one must possess a certain absence of the day in oneself.

BARRY COTTRILL

Faringdon, Oxfordshire

Sir: As a linguist in a research unit monitoring change in language, I was fascinated to note the occurrence pattern of the word "prestidigitation" in *The Independent* of 20 May.

Our vast corpus of newspaper

text estimates the rate of occurrence for "prestidigitation" to be once per 17.5 million words.

Thus, I would expect your newspaper to carry the word less than twice per year. Indeed, our statistics show no "prestidigitation" whatsoever in *The Independent* newspaper during the 18-month period ending March 1990.

However, yesterday's

*Independent* contained five

"prestidigitation"s in a single

edition, as many as have appeared in your newspaper in total since October 1993. By our calculations, this defies odds of approximately

50,000 million to one. As, perhaps,

Michael Howard must now do to become the next Tory leader.

STEVEN JONES

Research and Development Unit for

English Studies

University of Liverpool

Oxford

### Modern barbarity

Sir: I was surprised to see in your report today (15 May) on the treatment of runaway protesters the expression "medieval brutality". Is this intended to indicate some moderate form of repressive conduct? If not, would not "20th-century brutality" be more apt? It is hard to think of a century which could equal ours in systematically callous disregard for basic rights. Dr DAS YKES

Oxford

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.



# New Labour, new dancing

The Lindy Hop, born 70 years ago in Harlem, is back. It's big in the US and spreading here.

Forget swing voters, writes  
Ann Treneman, swing  
dancing is what counts now

First steps: Tony and Cherie swing it for Labour, and (right) Lindy-hopping New Yorkers show how it's done Main photograph: New York Times

**L**uigi Babe Scoria is a cool cat in the New Swing Era and it's the kind of thing that New Labour's scouts should really be noting. This is the perfect dance after a landslide victory, and offers an instant top-to-the-feel-good factor. It's a Bill Clinton kind of thing; style is vital, substance not so important.

The revival began a few years ago in San Francisco and worked its way east. Now they are Lindy-hopping on both coasts, with a lot of living in between. "It's a big deal. Lots of the hands are beginning to tour and get good record deals now," says Michael Moss of the glossy *Swingtime* magazine.

But could this make it across the Atlantic? The original swing was a dance of rebellion, and the Lindy is said to have been named when Harlem's Savoy ballroom broke into lunatic antics upon hearing the news of Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight in 1927. After so many years of Tory tea-dancing, a few mid-air kicks do not seem out of place. It could be a case of New Labour, New Dancing.

And then all hell breaks loose on the dance floor, and Luigi Babe is where he likes to be: in the middle of a fully-fledged American trend. His retro nights used to attract a dozen or so friends; now hundreds of strangers arrive in zoot suits and shiny cocktail dresses to jitterbug to Benny Goodman and jump jive to the Flipped Fedoras. The Lindy Hop, born in Harlem 70 years ago, is back on the dance floor with a vengeance.

They are calling it the New Swing Era and it's the kind of

thing that New Labour's scouts

should really be noting.

This is the perfect dance after a landslide victory, and offers an instant top-to-the-feel-good factor.

It's a Bill Clinton kind of

thing; style is vital, substance not so important.

The revival began a few years ago in San Francisco and worked its way east. Now they are Lindy-hopping on both coasts, with a lot of living in between. "It's a big deal. Lots of the hands are beginning to tour and get good record deals now," says Michael Moss of the glossy *Swingtime* magazine.

But could this make it across the Atlantic? The original swing was a dance of rebellion, and the Lindy is said to have been named when Harlem's Savoy ballroom broke into lunatic

antics upon hearing the news of Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight in 1927. After so many years of Tory tea-dancing, a few mid-air kicks do not seem out of place. It could be a case of New Labour, New Dancing.

San Francisco is no stranger to this factor itself. It is at its best at Bimbo's 365 Club, the multi-level supper club built in

the 1950s that is now the city's top swing venue. Hundreds of young people arrive in vintage cars, wearing vintage clothes from fedora top to spats-shoe toe: it's a spin'n'swing sort of scene.

"It's the alternative rock kids who are going for this scene," said *Swingtime's*

Moss, "the kids who were into grunge, hip-hop, and all that. They just got sick and tired of going out and getting depressed listening to music. Now they can go out and listen to music and have a good time."

A man who is regularly seen on being called Mr Lucky agrees (which is just as well, because he writes for *Moss's* magazine). "These

kids got tired of the same three

rock chords that somebody ripped off from a Buzzcocks song in 1979 and turned into

the industry of grunge rock.

They've had it with the torn

clothes and looking crummy.

They want something with a

little class, a little pizzazz, something that looks nice and, you know, crisp."

He himself is a singer and

swinger who dabbles in something

called Lounge, and, in fact,

was just on his way to LA to attend *Lounge* magazine's

third anniversary party.

"My favourite song is a Hawaiian

lounge version of 'Everybody

Wants to Rule the World'."

It is no surprise that Mr

Lucky and Luigi Babe know

each other, or that Luigi has his

own opinion about Generation X and the Lindy. "Why do kids love it so much?" It's real simple. Are you ready for this, babe? Young kids are swing

dancing because it is positive. How do I know? Because they are telling me this. They get to embrace another human being.

In the dances of the Eighties, you didn't even need to have a partner. All they care about now is being embraced and feeling good."

Americans love to calegorise, and swingers are not too out of breath to do just that. The main variation is between East Coast and West Coast swing, with the latter being slower and sexier. In addition,

there is a generation gap of

sorts, with more traditional

dancers going for big hand

era-type events, while younger

swingers head out to hear more

modern groups such as Big

Bad Voodoo Daddy and the

Squirrel Nut Zippers.

Luigi Babe is not shy about

stating his preference. "New

York swing is faster, with a hit

more edge and attitude. That's

why I am. We call it Neo

Pseudo Swing. This is a resur-

gence with a Nineties flavour.

That's what I'm known for:

putting the Nineties into swing.

I'm not doing a rehash of what's been done before. What I do is make it look good."

There is one problem with

this scene, as 41-year-old Luigi

sees it. Cocktails. He doesn't like the glass. "I'm a tough guy. I can't go sipping with a straw. So I pick it up and spill it everywhere." He laughs. "I drink Jack and Coke because – you know what? I like the glass. The kids drink blue, pink, green martinis."

You heard it here first ... but

the British swing scene can hop along fine, even without Luigi Babe. The latest edition of the fanzine *Killer Diller* carries ads for zoot hats, page

three "hunk", a feature on

jalopies, and a Benny Goodman excerpt from 1940. "Swing

has got inside you – and it

will eventually, although it has

to crawl in, through your ears,

through vibration, through

your pores," wrote the King of

Swing. "You're saturated with

it, hypnotized, and then, when

a cat sends a tune 'out of the

world', it fills every crook and

cranny of your soul and mind.

You start to shag! You peel the

apple! You beat it down! You

ride to town, ride right out of

the world with the sender ...

Things are a little less exciting

at Ruby's Dance Club on

Canary Street, where Jocelyn

Young (sister of Ruby) is teaching

a beginner the swing basics.

"Keep low, knees flexed. Dance

into the floor. Three steps and

then push back," she says.

Jocelyn used to go to lots of

swing and jive dances. "Jive is

good fun, and it would be great

if it did become more popular. Although some people now are really elite about it, if you aren't wearing the right shoes, they won't ask you to dance."

At Notre Dame Hall, the Lindy class is over, the lights are dimmed, the strobe is on, and the feet are moving too fast to see the shoes. Jerome Anderson is a Labour voter, a postman and a swinger. He sees a new world on the horizon. "Labour win, England win at the football, the feel-good factor will be everywhere. Jive will be part of that."

A man named Port Smith is setting the dance floor on fire, but takes a break while I shout my NL/NID question. He nods emphatically and shouts back: "New Labour, Old Dancing!"

That, of course, is a very dangerous word, and, as you read this, New Labour could be putting back on that boring old D:Ream track. But first, perhaps they should listen to Luigi

Babe as he tips his fedora to a world where cool cats love an image just as much as Peter

Mandelson: "Swing helps in this way too: if everybody dressed up, there would be no problems in the world, because no one

would want to get their clothes messed up. Think about it ..."

Public sector employees get more with Zurich Municipal

Does your motor insurance include FREE breakdown cover?

Ours does.

• Option to upgrade at substantially reduced prices.

Plus 15% off our comprehensive motor insurance premium for public sector employees.

Don't be satisfied with anything else. Call free on

**0800 22 66 77**

Open: 8am-8pm Mon to Fri, 9am-1pm Sat.  
Please quote the reference INM2205

## Holes in pockets: a medical breakthrough

Many years ago, when I was a mere lad, I used to suffer from a regular disfigurement. It was a blue patch on my thigh. This blue patch, measuring about six square inches, used to appear regularly twice a year, suddenly, then fade away again, gradually. The doctors were baffled at first but then traced it to the fact that I carried ballpoint pens in my trouser pockets.

"It's what we doctors call leaking pens," one explained to me. "You put the pen in your pocket. It leaks. All you notice is this blue patch on your leg. As a doctor, I would recommend you to use a pencil wherever possible."

And I did for a while, except that pencils have a nasty habit of coming through your trouser pocket and jabbing you in the leg, leaving your thigh looking as if it belonged to an unsuccessful graphite addict, full of injection marks surrounded by pencil shading.

I finally gave up carrying writing things in my trouser pockets, and graduated to the more grown-up habit of secreting them in my jacket pockets. This, however, led

to another malady which the medical profession had never warned me about, namely holes in the bottom of my pockets. What happens is that the pen or pencil gradually creates a small hole in the base of your pocket and then disappears through it like a brave British prisoner of war breaking out of a camp through a tunnel.

Unfortunately for his escape plans, the pen or pencil then finds itself in the lining of the jacket, not much nearer to freedom, and pretty soon you get a collection of writing instruments lying inside your jacket along the lower edge, plainly tangible but unseen and inaccessible.

The only way this can be reached is by making a new hole in the bottom of the jacket, or by enlarging the pre-existing hole in the jacket pocket and reaching down to get all the escaped things, neither of which is very recommended unless you are fairly desperate for a pen, or unless one of them starts leaking. Better to rattle around with these invisible pens in your lining. At least you'll know there's one there if you really should need it.

Now, things like this are an integral part of the growing process of many boys, though they have never been in any major novel that I have come across, and there comes a time when we outgrow such foolish things. I have not had a blue thigh patch for years and years. Most of my jacket pockets are intact, and I have hardly a jacket with anything down the lining. (Though I have recently noticed some very small objects lurking in the depths of my dinner jacket, way down in the lining.)

But I have recently noticed another malady attacking my person in the shape of weakened trouser pockets.

Occasionally I will put loose change in a trouser pocket, not realising the pocket has begun to leak, and the money will then fall through a hole on the pocket, rathe

down my leg like a fireman down a pole and reappear, cascading over my shoe. Bit embarrassing, really, when you're meant to be an adult. And the reason that my pockets are giving way, I think, is that I am inflicting an abnormally large key-ring on them.

Bunches of keys, like paunches and fingernails, just grow and keep growing unless something is done. I don't think I owned a key until I was about 20, but thereafter you start acquiring more keys in dribs and drabs

until, well, until I now have a bunch of a dozen or more keys, some of which I use a lot and some of which I never use and cannot even identify, but which I hang on to just in case, and every time I merely get the key out to let myself into my house, I jangle like a warden going into a prison.

And because you cannot get many keys on one ring, I find that my keys are on half a dozen different rings, strung together like those molecular models you occasionally glimpse on Open University programmes...

"That's funny," said the doctor, last time I had a check-up. "You've got a blue patch on your thigh. Wonder what it can be?"

"Leaking pen?" I suggested. "No, don't think so. Looks more like a bruise. Do you keep anything heavy in your trouser pocket?"

"Yes. A bunch of keys."

So I have learnt something about life after all. Two things, actually. One is that everything leaves a blue patch on you sooner or later.

The other is that if men really cared about clothes they would have started carrying handbags years ago.



Miles Kington

شاعر من العصر

شاعر من العصر

Even no  
still pe  
the rite

Murri  
Prince  
Darkne  
and sin  
in the  
most su  
He is no  
ough k  
but fo  
nch ha

he Fl

# Even now, they still perform the rite of spite

**T**his was a gathering of an ancient cult, last remnants of a breed we thought died on 2 May. But no, not quite. All the high priests of the anti-welfare coven were there at the Social Market Foundation conference, "The Future of Welfare" - starring US grand wizard Charles Murray (*Lossing Ground, The Bell Curve*). Spells were cast amid calls for ritual human sacrifice, mainly of single mothers and their babies.

Lord Skidelsky, chair of the foundation, economist and Conservative peer, stirred the cauldron first with the theme of his hook-calling for an end to social security, a huge tax cut, privatising education and the NHS. Bang! The welfare state gone in a puff of smoke.

Assembled was an eminent mixture of people who had no truck with this cult - top civil servants, policy makers, movers and shakers from the Treasury, DSS and the Audit Commission. But all the old clowns were there too - the ghosts of policies past, such as Sir Alfred Sherman.

A few weeks ago all this would have been ominous, but now it was almost entertaining. They thought the unthinkable all right and it was indeed, well, unthinkable. Whatever Frank Field has been sent away to think, he made it plain in his own short presentation that this is not the way his mind is working. Why these people always thought he was one of them is a mystery. He is a Christian, they are cannibals.

Skidelsky begins with the convenient assumption that we cannot afford the welfare state. He quotes Tony Blair, who of course, said nothing of the sort. What Blair actually said was, "We have reached the limit of the public's willingness to spend on an *unreformed* [my italics] welfare system." Well, there are few people who doubt that it must be reformed, but the far right prefers to believe it cannot be afforded at all. "High tax weakens entrepreneurship and welfare weakens the resolve to work." That is Skidelsky's real beef: affordability is just a red herring. Of course a country twice as rich as it was in 1945 can afford it, so long as it is prudently run.

The far right are a strange bunch. First there was Myron Magnet, a famed US anti-welfare guru who sports bushy mutton-chop whiskers and speaks like Elmer Gantry, all parades and slogans; few statistics; the middle classes of the Sixties are to blame for everything - "personal sexual fulfillment" (yuk) and the "rebellious imperatives of the self" (disgraceful) percolated down to the poor who lost all shame in taking welfare. Roger Scruton said poverty is a good thing as the poor remind us of our social duties. Others said visible poverty teaches the consequences of improvidence. Skidelsky mused that in mediaeval times great sanctity was attached to poverty. Someone else advocated free rice, beans and powdered milk in buckets in the street - but nothing else; while another ideologue quoted Tacitus who said giving away free corn caused the fall of the Roman empire.

Then came the Prince of Darkness himself, Charles Murray, who believes poverty is genetic illegitimacy is the real problem, he says, whether or not the mother is working and supporting her family. He didn't really explain why a man - any man - is the answer, but he wants no benefits for single mothers. "We will have to hurt them," he says, licking his Dracula lips. "They must know that disaster awaits." They must suffer a lot, yes indeed and publicly.



Polly Toynbee

**Murray, Prince of Darkness, said single mothers must suffer. He is not for tough love but for tough hate**

Murray is not a man for tough love but tough hate.

Now into this seething morass steps Frank Field for his first ministerial appearance. He had no announcement, but we listened to the timbre of his language and his words fell as soothing balm on ears scorched by previous speakers. He does not blame the poor for their plight. Quietly, he talked of the one third of manufacturing jobs for unskilled young men that had vanished since 1979, leaving whole communities with no means of support. "Understanding rather than condemnation" was required. He wants welfare to become once again an engine for social advance and betterment. Bad education was the recruiting sergeant for welfare dependency, and low-achieving girls needed "a hand-up, not a put-down" to prevent them becoming mothers too young.

Now we do not know quite what he means yet. But one thing is certain, he does not belong in this tribe. The old left branded him as a right-winger when he first said out loud that the system offers all the wrong incentives and is riddled with fraud. But anyone who ever comes in contact with the lives of the unemployed knows that to be true. We do not need staring-eyed right-wingers to tell us that.

The system traps those it is supposed to help. It is too difficult for claimants to move in and out of temporary work and too easy to sink into lethargy and do nothing. It is too easy for the young to slide into a marginal non-working alternative life on the dole. It is almost impossible for single mothers to work without after-school schemes for their children. It is frighteningly easy for small time or professional fraudsters to swindle on a massive scale.

We do indeed need fresh thinking.

The current Project Work pilot schemes have already shown how intensively supervised job searching, backed with compulsory work, gets up to 40 per cent of claimants off the books. Labour has a better scheme, with real paid work and better training, but the effect will be the same. Workfare will be mostly carrot, with a bit of stick for the under-25s and the long-term unemployed - and the signs are it will work.

Once the taxi-driver vote is convinced that fraud and idleness have been squeezed out of the system, then, as Field said, there should be greater public support for social security. For there will always remain a large number of people who cannot work - sick, old, mentally incapable, unemployed or living in the Barrows and the Jarrow where no work is to be had.

But it will not be as easy as Labour's election slogan made it sound. A brilliant speech by Two Brains David Willetts, former minister and social security aficionado, explained just how difficult reform will be. He pointed out that trying to make a smooth staircase out of benefit into work is fraught with problems: you iron out the steepest steps, only to re-create them further up or lower down the chain. Making family credit more generous to get more people on to it creates its own traps and linking the tax and benefits system will not solve that dilemma. All the same, his "Nothing can be done" message was another reminder that even the best brains in government need time off for replenishing from time to time.

Well, now we shall see if the two brains of Harman and Field can prove him wrong. One thing is certain, whatever "unthinkable" they come up with, it will not inhabit the same intellectual universe as Lord Skidelsky and the US anti-welfarists.

"They must know that disaster awaits." They must suffer a lot, yes indeed and publicly.

## The Flash that struck the City

Gordon Brown has learnt from the ghosts of chancellors past, says Jack O'Sullivan

**T**he speed with which the new chancellor has gone about radical reform has justifiably earned him the nickname Flash Gordon. In just a few weeks, Mr. Brown has handed interest rate decision-making over to the Bank of England and then, just as surprisingly, shown the Old Lady of her role as regulator of financial institutions. No one has burst into the Treasury in quite that fashion before.

"Chancellors don't usually hit the ground running like this," says Edmund Dell, a former president of the Board of Trade and author of *The Chancellors* (HarperCollins). "They tend to take a little time finding out about the job because they don't generally know much about it when they begin."

"I cannot think of any precedent for a chancellor who has acted so decisively," says Lord Jenkins, who himself moved into No 11 Downing Street 30 years ago and, as a political biographer, knows a thing or two about previous incumbents. "I admire the way Gordon Brown has gone about the task."

Jenkins is particularly impressed because, as he says, "most chancellors take over in a crisis and then make the wrong decisions. In Gordon Brown's case, he has not got a crisis on his hands. He has underlying public finance difficulties, but no great short-term problems."

In the Commons on Tuesday, Kenneth Clarke made a blistering attack on his successor, accusing him of "making policy on the hoof, as he did

in opposition". But Lord Callaghan, Labour chancellor between 1964 and 1967, thinks Gordon is more than a flash in the pan. "He seems to have worked out his programme and methods need to a higher degree than I can remember of previous governments. So much attention was focused on this new government in opposition that they were forced to refine their policies and ideas." And, in any case, he says, the Brown initiatives spring from well-rehearsed public debates. "The question of the Bank's responsibilities have been debated for a long time. There are no new arguments."

Nevertheless, Brown's speed remains startling. We have become accustomed to a succession of Tory chancellors - Howe, Lawson, Major, Lamont and finally Clarke - whose reigns merged into one another, and certainly were not begun in such dramatic fashion. Lawson will be remembered as the tax-cutting and reforming chancellor, who had a boom named after him and got out before the bust. But he took his time. So did John Major who waited a year before his disastrous decision to join the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. Lamont was hardly Stormin' Norman, living with the mess Major left, and Clarke did not rush into any early budgets. The then Sir Geoffrey Howe was perhaps the quickest on his feet, abolishing exchange controls in 1979, five months after taking office, a move that was arguably as important as giving the Bank its independence.

So what's the hurry Gordon? Lord

Callaghan offers a clue. "I remember," he says, "when I was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport in 1947, there was a wise old permanent secretary, Sir Cyril Hurncomb. I was just in my early thirties and

it was my first ministerial post. He said, 'Part Sec, whatever you want to do, take the decision in the first three months. After that the bureaucracy will have built up and will stop you.' It was good advice."

It helps, of course, if you are at one with your prime minister. "Brown could never have done these things without Blair's backing," Dell says. Contrast that with the frustration which accompanied Nigel Lawson's chancellorship, when he failed to win Margaret Thatcher over to joining the ERM and to making the Bank of England independent.

Brown's behaviour may also reflect worries about his Labour predecessors. In Callaghan's case, he will remember that within days of Labour's 1964 election, the then chancellor came to a very rapid decision - not to devalue the pound. "It was," says Callaghan, "a political decision, because we would have been hung and quartered by the Tories at the time. To devalue then was like sinning against the Holy Ghost." But it was Callaghan's successor, Lord Jenkins, the wrong decision. Three years later a sterling crisis was prompted by the 1964 decision, so forcing the devaluation which should have taken place years before. Failure to take the right decision at the right time cost Callaghan his job.

And then there was the lardiness of Jenkins. Following the devaluation, he waited four months before introducing a deflationary budget - a delay that left the market jittery and led to talk of another devaluation. "With perfect hindsight," he says now, "the budget would have been better sooner." Little wonder that Jenkins adds: "Well done to Gordon Brown for acting decisively and quickly."

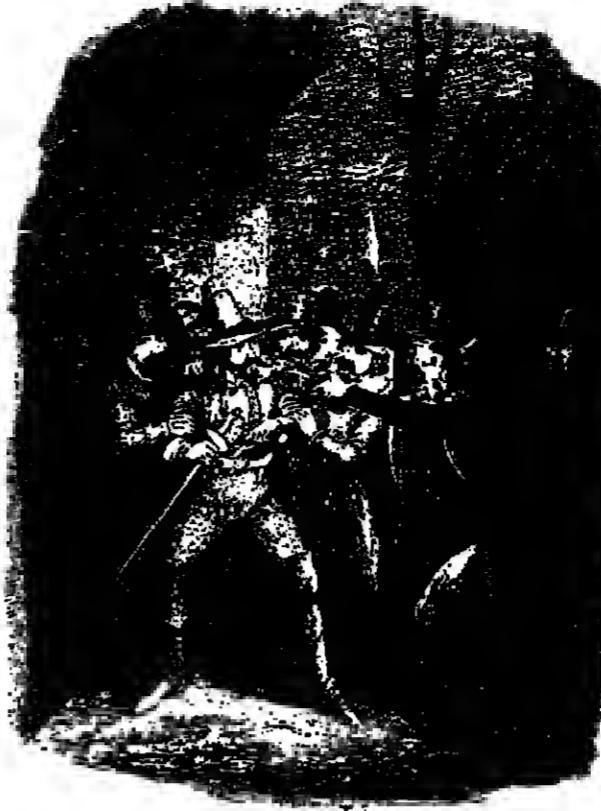
Failure to take the tough decisions quickly enough afflicted earlier Labour administrations. Hugh Dalton, Labour's post-war chancellor, avoided a deflationary budget in 1945 by despatching John Maynard Keynes to Washington to raise cash from the Americans. But Keynes came back with half what was expected and in loan rather than grant form. That led to the sterling crisis of 1947 and a harsh deflationary budget, which was two years too late.

Mr Brown may be keen to move quickly to take the tough decisions, but his immediate Labour predecessor, Denis Healey, thought he had learned the lesson of previous dilatoriness, and it did not do him much good. He held his first budget with amazing speed - just three weeks after the 1974 general election. The budget was designed to deal with the enormous balance of payments deficit resulting from the oil price hike. But in the rush, the Treasury got its forecasts wrong with the result that public borrowing rose rather than fell. The mess had to be cleared up in a second budget later in the year.

Many chancellors have been ruined by doing too little too late. Others have just been unlucky. Labour's ghosts suggest Flash Gordon is right to act fast. But more important than being quick is being right.



Callaghan offers a clue. "I remember," he says, "when I was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport in 1947, there was a wise old permanent secretary, Sir Cyril Hurncomb. I was just in my early thirties and



Widdecombe's choice - should go down a bomb

The plot thickens ...

Ann Widdecombe's favourite piece of non-fiction is a book on Guy Fawkes

john walsh



medical records?) The new hot property in Toyland is infinitely worse. Stand by for the appearance in your home of a Tamagotchi, the "virtual pet" whose name translates revoltingly as "lovable egg". It takes the form of a keyring with a screen on which you watch, with horror, as a little blob is born, grows, gets bigger and demands attention. From the moment the little beast is born, the Tamagotchi owner is responsible for its health and welfare. It sleeps when it needs attention or when it's hungry (you feed it by pressing buttons). You have to wash it and change it and clean it up. It interrupts whatever you're doing with demands that you play with it. It gradually develops features, arms, legs and hair, as a sign that you're looking after it properly. Sometimes it will decide to be naughty and shake its little alien head from side to side, like a Bombay taxi driver, when you're trying to feed it. Then you have to discipline it, despite the practical problems of administering a clip round the ear to a LCD screen. If it's well fed, four little black heads appear on the screen. At night, you have to turn its light off at 9pm or it won't be able to sleep. And it bleeps you awake at nine in the morning like a toddler, demanding virtual Cheesies. And here's the really attractive proposition - if it's neglected, it dies, and a little screen angel flaps heavenwards. All the pets die, in fact, after 30 days; the trick is to see how long you can keep one going, fed, watered, happy and disciplined before it sniffs it. And when you hatch out another one, as if life and death were no more than an

assembly line. It's a hit of a learning curve for today's 10-year-old, although it tells you more about the eternally verities than the Spice Girls video.

At present, you can't buy one (recommended retail price £10; current price in the shops about £14) in London. Launched last week, the emetic little things are flooding out of Hamley's and Toys R Us like a stampede of bolting shoplifters. Last Friday, an unadvertised consignment of 1,000 Tamagotchi sold out in three hours (one per customer, maximum). Japanese businessmen in London, I'm told, go mad for them, especially the comparatively rare white ones, after a Tokyo pop star was seen on television chatting in a parental kind of way to his white-encased blob.

According to my sources here, both sentimentally disposed 11-year-old girls and gruff, burly, rugby-playing 15-year-old boys are alike fixated by these neisome homunculi.

"They're terribly addictive," insists a woman friend.

"I worry about mine all the time." Why? "I've developed a fixation that, if I neglect it, it'll do a poo in my handbag."



Virtual pets can be a handful: the sought-after Tamagotchi

WHO BETTER TO HELP YOU CHOOSE A NURSING HOME THAN A NURSE.

Deciding an elderly relative needs the extra care of a nursing home is perhaps one of the hardest decisions you'll ever have to make. Choosing the right nursing home is even harder.

That's why the free BUPA CareFinder service enables you to talk directly to a fully qualified nurse, who will advise you on the right homes for your relatives' needs, and help you make the decision.

All the homes we recommend are individually inspected and accredited by BUPA. For more information, call 0645 600 300 (local rate) quoting NP06. The service is free, and open to everyone, not just BUPA members.

Please post to BUPA CareFinder, FREEPOST, London WC1X 8ER. You don't even need a stamp. Reference BUPA NP06

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Even) \_\_\_\_\_

BUPA CareFinder  
The nursing care advisory service

## obituaries / gazette

## Virgilio Barco

Virgilio Barco Vargas was President of Colombia during a particularly violent period of its turbulent history. The Medellin-based drug-trafficking organisation led by Pablo Escobar launched an all-out war against the state, assassinating leading politicians, planting car bombs in city centres and systematically murdering policemen. Barco rose to the challenge, hitting back hard against the gunmen of the "Medellin cartel" and demonstrating that the country's democratic institutions were too strong to be destroyed by organised crime.

But it was a close-run thing, and Colombia paid a high price for the president's brave stand. The low point came in August 1989, when the ruling Liberal Party's candidate for elections in the following year was gunned down at a campaign meeting near Bogotá. In all, three presidential candidates were to die during that election campaign.

The traffickers' onslaught was provoked by Barco's decision to allow prisoners wanted on drug-related charges to be extradited to the United States. They could expect much harsher treatment from the courts there than in Colombia, as they were held responsible for supplying most of the cocaine that reached the streets of American cities. Until Barco acted the power of the cocaine cartels had been growing unchecked in Colombia, and the psychopathic Escobar had come to believe that he could do much as he liked.

Barco's firm response was characteristic of a man who believed in the rule of law, in a country where it has needed courage to defend such principles. Colombia is one of the very few Latin American countries where military interventions have been the exception rather than the rule throughout its history, and where two-party elections have usually taken place on schedule. But the forces of anarchy are always threatening to break loose, as Barco learnt

as a young man: when he entered politics in the mid-1940s the country was plunged into a decade of undeclared civil war, known simply as "*La Violencia*", in which the rival Liberal and Conservative parties took up arms against each other and hundreds of thousands of people died.

Barco was born in 1921 into a wealthy Conservative family in the department of Norte de Santander, on the Venezuelan frontier. His family had made their money in oil, and, like many young men of his class, he was sent abroad to study, returning at the age of 22 with a degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was expected to take his place in the social and political life of his home town, Cúcuta, but to his family's horror he announced that during his absence he had become a Liberal. This was at a time when party loyalties were set in stone in the Colombian provinces, and good Conservatives believed Liberals were in league with the Devil. His grandfather, General Virgilio Barco, never recovered from the shock.

Despite his natural shyness and dislike of confrontation, young Virgilio stuck to his new-found political beliefs. Within two years he had entered active politics as a Liberal councillor in the nearby town of Durania. By 1945 he was acting minister of posts and telegraphs, and three years later he was elected to the lower house of congress in Bogotá. Thereafter he held a succession of senior ministerial and diplomatic appointments. (He was Ambassador in London in 1961-62 and 1990-92.) In the course of a long career in public life, culminating in his election as President of the Republic in 1986, with a record five million votes.

His landslide victory owed nothing to the rousing oratory or skills in backroom deal-making that are the normal qualifications for political suc-

Making a stand against "narcoterrorism": Barco celebrates after the Colombian elections in May 1986

cess in Colombia. Auster and aloof, he hated making speeches and taking part in public debates, and was equally uncomfortable with the bureaucratic spoils system that had helped to keep the lid on political rivalries since *La Violencia* came to an end 30 years earlier. He preferred to surround himself with young technocrats, promoting several of them to ministerial posts when they were still in their twenties.

They served him well as he struggled to wean the Liberal Party away from its traditionally interventionist, protectionist ways and open up the Colombian economy to the free-market influences that were sweeping the continent in the late 1980s. Barco is credited with beginning the process of privatising state-owned companies, which has continued under his much younger successors, César Gaviria and Ernesto Samper. He also saw Colombia safely through the debt crisis that afflicted the rest of the continent, ensuring that never defaulted on its payments or had to seek rescheduling of its obligations.

Barco was frequently disturbed from these tasks by the need to deal with the endemic guerrilla warfare that dated back to the period of *La Violencia*. Four left-wing insurgencies roamed the countryside, spawning in turn countless right-wing paramilitary gangs bent on outing them in acts of terror and extortion. The president succeeded in negotiating a peace treaty with one of the left-wing guerrilla armies, M-19, which subsequently became as Pablo Escobar to negotiate surrender terms, including guarantees that they would not be extradited.

Unusually for a Colombian ex-president, Barco took no

further part in public life after returning from the London embassy in 1992. Partly because of advancing ill-health, he retired to his native region and refrained from making public pronouncements. President Samper ordered three days of national mourning after his death.

Colin Harding

**Virgilio Barco Vargas, politician:** born Cúcuta, Colombia 17 September 1921; Representative to Congress of Colombia 1949; Senator 1958; Minister of Public Works 1958; Ambassador in London 1961-62; Minister of Agriculture 1963 and 1990-92; Mayor of Bogotá 1966-69; Ambassador to the United States 1977; President of Colombia 1986-90; married 1950 Caroline Isidora (one son, three daughters); died Bogotá 20 May 1997.

Photograph: Rex

Richard Robinson

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Stuart-Smith

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:

**Richard Henry Martin Robinson, gardener and horticultural photographer:** born Hendon, Middlesex 21 March 1917; twice married (one son, and one daughter deceased); died 27 March 1997.

# business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098  
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

## George thought of quitting over Bank reforms

**Tom Stevenson**  
Financial Editor

Eddie George considered resigning his position as Governor of the Bank of England in protest at the abrupt removal of his powers of banking supervision this week. The Bank was informed of the transfer of its regulatory authority to an enlarged Securities and Investment Board only 24 hours before the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, announced the move in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

Speaking at a rare press conference in the Bank yesterday, Mr George put a brave face on the latest attempt by the new Government to modernise the running of the economy. He attempted to play down the lack of consultation with the Treasury but admitted he had thought about quitting after the removal of another of the Bank's key functions.

The removal of the Bank's regulatory powers has been

seen as a rebuke from the Government for its perceived failure to prevent the collapse of BCCI and Barings.

Mr George warned against reading too much into the lack of consultation, saying the Chancellor was aware of the Bank's views on the subject. But he added: "All sorts of things go through your mind at times like this."

The Governor made it clear he was unhappy with the speed with which the announcement had been made, only two weeks after the Treasury had also taken over the Bank's 300-year-old responsibility for managing the Government's debt through its oversight of the gilts market. He said: "The surprise was in the timing. We wouldn't have made the changes at this time."

The Chancellor caught the City on the hop on Tuesday with the announcement of wholesale changes in the system of financial regulation that governs the behaviour of banks, securities houses and insurance companies. The main plank of his proposed changes were the creation of a single super-regulator, headed by Howard Davies, currently deputy gov-

ernor of the Bank of England, and the transfer of banking supervision from the Bank.

Stripped of one of its core functions, the Bank's responsibilities now focus on monetary stability, where its role was boosted by the announcement two weeks ago that it would be free to set interest rates, and the overall stability of the financial system.

Mr George cautioned yes-

terday that the super-SIB must be careful to avoid becoming a "bureaucratic monolith".

He said: "It is enormously important that different types of financial service activity are regulated in different ways, I am confident that Howard Davies will be totally sensitised to the need to maintain a balance between innovative vigour on one hand and protection of smaller, less

sophisticated investors and savers on the other."

But he dismissed the suggestion that two regulators should have been set up to separate the supervision of retail and wholesale financial services. "That distinction is easy to say but difficult to draw."

One of the crucial areas going forward, according to Mr George, would be making the re-

lationship between the new single regulator and the Bank work effectively. One possible fault line in the proposed system was the Bank's ability to ensure financial stability without the information it had gleaned up to now from its role as regulator.

A large part of the running of the new SIB's supervision of the banking sector is likely to fall on some of the 425 staff who work on regulation at the Bank. Despite the transfer of many of the jobs to the new regulator, the finance union, Bifu, expressed concern yesterday about the proposed changes.

"The Bank has known for a fortnight that changes in banking supervision were coming yet they failed to alert their own staff and their union," said Ed Sweeney, Bifu general secretary. Another 80 staff in the Bank's markets operations division are already facing uncertainty over their futures after Mr Brown's decision to transfer debt management to the Treasury.

Comment, page 25

## Interest rates expected to go up again next month

The Bank of England has signalled the likelihood of a further increase in the cost of borrowing. Eddie George said yesterday that the short-term inflation outlook was "extremely encouraging" but he was concerned that strong growth was building up longer-term pressures, writes Diane Coyle.

The Governor was repeating the warning he had given Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, at their April meeting. Newly published minutes of the meeting showed the Bank had strongly recommended a quarter-point

increase in base rates. "What we're also seeing is robust domestic demand growth at a rate which can't be sustained for very long without actually giving rise to inflationary pressures further down the track," Mr George said in a radio interview yesterday.

According to the minutes, he told Mr Clarke the need for a tighter policy in order to have a chance of meeting the inflation target two years ahead had become more urgent. The Bank recommended "making a start now".

Although the former Chancellor

turned down the advice ahead of the election, Gordon Brown raised base rates to 6.25 per cent within a week of polling day.

With figures yesterday showing the housing market robust and a strong rise in consumer borrowing last month, most analysts expect the Bank to announce a quarter-point increase in June or July. Figures from the main high street banks and building societies yesterday showed the housing market recovery continued, while other consumer borrowing increased.

New mortgage lending by building societies rose slightly compared with March to £1bn, about the same level as a year ago despite the transfer of National & Provincial and Alliance & Leicester to the banking sector.

Mortgage lending by banks was almost the same as in March, at £740m, and up from £565m a year earlier. The banks reported the second-highest total on record for consumer loans, at £1.2bn in April. However, the growth in total lending by banks and building societies declined a shade to 8.9

per cent year on year. Likewise, growth in M4, the broad money measure, slowed to 10.4 per cent from 11.2 per cent in March.

Analysts reacted cautiously as

transactions in the gilts repo market accounted for much of the slowdown. Monetary growth in double digits will still concern the Bank. The minutes showed that Mr George had drawn attention to strong M4 growth in the April meeting. He also said that the pace of earnings growth, since revised down, was uncomfortably high.

Comment, page 25

## F1 teams threaten float delay

**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

Leading Grand Prix teams are threatening to hold up the high-profile flotation of the Formula One motor racing business until the autumn in a dispute over the size of the share stake allocated to the constructors.

The top teams, led by Williams and McLaren, are unhappy with the 10 per cent stake in the floated company to be distributed among the constructors under proposals drawn up by Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank. The issue is understood to be far from settled, despite recent briefings given to City analysts by Salomon's suggesting that the final obstacles had been resolved.

Bernie Ecclestone, owner of the hugely profitable promotional empire, is understood to be locked in discussions with team bosses including Frank Williams and Ron Dennis, head of McLaren, with both sides apparently preferring to negotiate personally. The teams are demanding a much larger share in the floated company, which could be worth between £1.4bn and £2bn.

Mr Ecclestone's current plan is to offer half the shares to the public, retaining 30 per cent of the company for himself and leaving 10 per cent stakes for the teams and the sport's Paris-based governing body, the FIA. The teams are thought to be pushing to emerge with closer to 20 per cent of the business, leaving Mr Ecclestone with a similar-sized stake.

A source close to the discus-

sions said yesterday: "Ecclestone and Salomon's are using the media to negotiate. But behind the scenes things are far from concluded." The source added: "Frank Williams and Ron Dennis are in no hurry to sort this out. The one thing Bernie requires is their cooperation, but no one can understand why so keen to get the float away over the summer."

Another problem remains the allocation of earnings from world-wide television rights, which are under the sole control of Mr Ecclestone's business. Williams, McLaren and Tyrrell, were thought finally to have agreed to sign up to the Concorde Agreement which divides up the rights. However, several issues are understood to be outstanding which could be crucial to the success of the float. One suggestion is that teams may decide to share out individual stakes in Formula One using the same formula as Cooerde, details of which are secret.

Salomon's had hoped to produce a prospectus on the float as early as this week, but it would be almost impossible to produce a document before negotiations are concluded. A spokeswoman for Formula One declined to comment on the talks.

The problems have come as Salomon's prepares to fly selected analysts to Barcelona this weekend for the Spanish Grand Prix. The visit has already raised eyebrows in the City because only analysts working for securities houses acting as sub-underwriters to the float have been invited.

Comment, page 25



Bubbling: Richard North, Bass's finance director (left) and Sir Ian Prosser, chairman. Bass announced half-year profits up 10 per cent yesterday

## Decision on Bass deal soon

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive of Bass, said yesterday that he expected a decision on the proposed £200m Carlsberg-Jetley acquisition to be announced by the competition authorities in mid-June.

The deal has been mired in negotiations with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since last year.

The comments came as the company announced a 10 per cent increase in half-year profits to £318m, boosted by strong performances in its Bass Taverns business and the Coral betting shops.

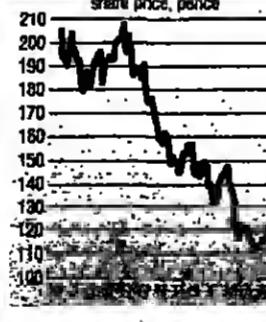
There was also renewed speculation yesterday that Bass might bid for William Hill, the Brot Walker-owned bookmakers, at a price of up to £700m. The company declined to comment.

Bass shares fell 22.5p to 798.5p on fears that it might over-pay as it seeks a deal. There were also concerns over a slowdown in the Holiday Inn hotels business.

Investment column, page 24

## Pilkington ousts Leverton in bid to pick up pace

### Pilkington



### Magnus Grimond

Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of Pilkington, yesterday signalled a renewed determination to wield the axe at the struggling glass group by ousting the chief executive, Roger Leverton. He is to be replaced by Paolo Scaroni, the Italian head of Pilkington's automotive products division, who has gained a reputation as a determined cost cutter. Signs that the board may be ready to take decisive action to

reverse the group's plunging share price in the face of two profit warnings over the past 12 months prompted a 6p rise in the share to 121.5p yesterday.

Sir Nigel paid tribute to Mr Leverton's labours in reshaping Pilkington, which have seen some 8,000 jobs shed over the past four years as the group attempted to combat plummeting European glass prices.

"We have done quite a lot of restructuring but we felt the pace of change was not fast

enough in a very difficult industry," he said. "Roger has done a good job, but it is not good enough."

Mr Leverton, whose two-year contract paying £47,000 in 1995-96 could put him in line for a pay-off approaching £290,000, was disappointed that the efforts to refocus the business had not come through to shareholders. "Trading conditions have been extremely difficult in certain of our key markets and results have been

disappointing. The board felt that, under the circumstances, the next stage of the company's development should be handled by a new chief executive."

Mr Scaroni joined Pilkington in November from Techint, an Italian engineering group, where he was executive vice-chairman.

Prior to that he was for 12 years with Saint Gobain, the French glass maker, ending up in charge of the group's worldwide flat glass activities.

A senior source in the company said the decision to replace Mr Leverton had been made by the non-executive directors, who had decided that the pace of change needed to be accelerated. Although there would not necessarily be more job losses, the intention was to undertake a new delayering of management and costs.

The group yesterday confirmed its March warning that profits would be cut to £130m in 1996-97.

## Celltech trial failure sends shares plummeting

**Sameena Ahmad**

The risks of gambling on biotechnology stocks were starkly illustrated yesterday after the share price of Celltech, the UK's second biggest company in the sector, crashed by almost half. The company's shares fell 28p to 341p as the group said its leading product, a drug for septic shock, had failed final stage clinical trials.

Celltech said the drug BAYX 1351, licensed from Germany's Bayer, "has not been shown to be effective in reducing mortality in septic shock". The

development costs. "We remain financially strong," he said. Dr Blodham said he thought the outcome was more devastating for Bayer, which had publicly heralded the drug as its main product launch in 1998 and had already built a factory to manufacture it. "I understand there will be redundancies at Bayer," he said.

Dr Blodham said Celltech would abandon the sepsis work, but would continue developing the same drug for the bowel condition Crohn's disease and would continue its leukaemia and arthritis programmes. "We

still have other legs to stand on," he said.

Analysts said that though no one had been successful in developing a septic shock drug, the news was a blow for Celltech, particularly as the group was forced to abandon a drug for asthma less than two years ago. Ian Smith, an analyst with Lehman Brothers, said: "Celltech needs some new and exciting news to get its share price going again."

Mark Brewer, an analyst with Hoare Govett, pointed out that the septic shock market was notoriously difficult. "Every single biotechnology company who

has got involved in septic shock has failed," he said.

He thought Celltech's remaining drug programme looked weak. "We are positive about their leukaemia drug, but we think there will be a lot of competition in the Crohn's market and there are better products being developed for arthritis by companies like Glaxo."

Analysts said the impact of Celltech's announcement on other biotechnology stocks highlighted the risks involved in the sector. Mr Smith at Lehman said the market would now question how easy it was to predict whether a drug would make it to market: "This will make the City less inclined to assume success," he said.

Mr Brewer at Hoare Govett thought it would have implications for the queue of biotechs hoping to list in the UK. "Float prices may have to be scaled back," he said.

However, several prominent names in the industry argued that the sector as a whole would not be held back. John Padfield, chief executive at Chiroscience, said the market was increasingly able to discriminate between high and low-risk biotech stocks.

Analysts said the impact of Celltech's announcement on other biotechnology stocks highlighted the risks involved in the sector. Mr Smith at Lehman said the market would now question how easy it was to predict whether a drug would make it to market: "This will make the City less inclined to assume success," he said.

Mr Brewer at Hoare Govett thought it would have implications for the queue of biotechs hoping to list in the UK. "Float prices may have to be scaled back," he said.

British Aerospace has approached the Government seeking up to £160m in launch aid to develop a stretched version of the Airbus A340 long-range jet. Rolls-Royce is also negotiating an airframe package to build an engine for the new aircraft based on its Trent engine.

This emerged yesterday as the aerospace industry launched a campaign to persuade the Government to increase research and development funding for the sector fivefold to £100m a year.

Mike Turner, president of the Society of British Aerospace Companies and head of BAe's commercial aircraft business, said that together with launch aid the industry was looking for a total of £250m a year in government support.

BAe also intends to seek £250m in launch aid for the 600-seat superjumbo planned by Airbus, the A3XX. The R&D programmes the industry is seeking increased funding for include a new wing design for the A3XX, advanced cockpit technology and a project aimed at reducing aircraft maintenance costs.

The industry will press its case at a meeting in the next few weeks with Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. Mrs Beckett will also at-

tempt the Paris Airshow next month, where ministers from the four Airbus nations – Britain, France, Germany and Spain – are expected to review progress towards turning the consortium into a commercial company and the request for further launch aid.

The A340-500/600 series will cost £2bn-£2.5bn to launch and will give Airbus a long-range 375 seat jet able to compete with Boeing's 747 jumbo and versions of the wide-bodied 777.

Rolls is working with the US engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney to supply the engine for the new aircraft. A decision on which manufacturer has been chosen may be announced before Paris.

BAe received £400m in 1987 to develop the A330-A340 family of jets. It is due to start repaying that launch aid this autumn through a levy on sales and is pressing the Government to agree the new support package at the same time. Launch aid repayments will bring in £500m a year for the Government over the next five years.

Mr Turner said that if Britain did not increase its support for aerospace R&D then 40,000 of the 100,000 jobs the industry supports could disappear over the next 15 years as companies went overseas for funding.

The industry will press its case at a meeting in the next few weeks with Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. Mrs Beckett will also at-

tempt the Paris Airshow next month, where ministers from the four Airbus nations – Britain, France, Germany and Spain – are expected to review progress towards turning the consortium into a commercial company and the request for further launch aid.

The A340-500/600 series will cost £2bn-£2.5bn to launch and will give Airbus a long

## Gambles pay off at Land Securities

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

#### Land Securities : at a glance

Market value: £4.52bn, share price 873.5p

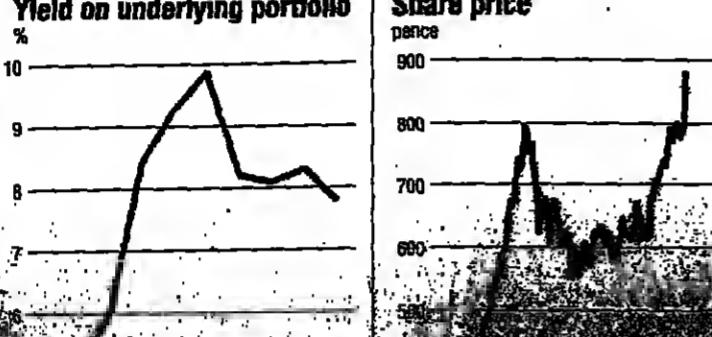
##### Five-year record

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997

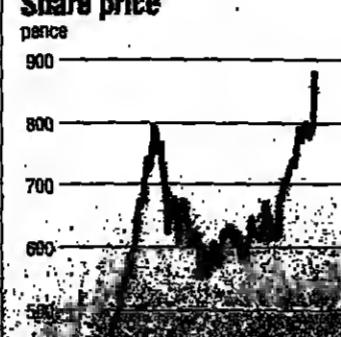
Pre-tax profits (£m) 229 237 245 238 244

Dividends per share (pence) 22.8 24.0 25.0 26.0 27.0

##### Yield on underlying portfolio %



##### Share price pence



Land Securities yesterday did something it has not done for at least four years by dazzling analysts with an unexpected good set of annual figures and strongly hinting at more to come. Britain's biggest property group is often seen as a ponderous behemoth, slow to change, while younger, more nimble groups move into exciting new areas like out-of-town shopping centres and retail shed developments.

In fact, under retiring chief executive Sir Peter Hunt, the group has been more far-sighted than many, taking gambles in the teeth of the early 1990s property slump to launch what has become a £400m development programme. The fruits of that spending, which has added something like 10 per cent to the portfolio of retail and office property, are borne out in the latest results.

Pre-tax profits up 2.6 per cent to £24m were boosted by property sales, so the underlying revenue figure actually showed a small 1.3 per cent decline to £236m. But the real meat yesterday came in the chunky 13 per cent increase in net assets per share to 783p.

As can be seen from the step change in yield from 8.3 to 7.8 per cent on the underlying £5.3bn portfolio, there can be little doubt that the property market is on the move again. This figure, which excludes underperforming properties scheduled for development, has been helped by the link to falling gilt yields, which of course dropped again recently as a result of the move to give more freedom to the Bank of England to set interest rates.

Equally, the recovery in the property market has itself been patchy. The growth rates in Land Sec's portfolio range from 2.8 per cent for offices in the City of London to 18 per cent for retail sheds and food superstores. The development programme, already worth over £50m on current yields, has helped skew the portfolio further towards the sexier retail end of the market, which now accounts for 53 per cent of the whole. The next 3 million sq ft programme, due to begin in December 1998 with projects like the Marneau Galleries retail redevelopment in Birmingham, will only increase the bias towards shopping.

There remains, however, a tail of underperformers at Land Securities. Some 16 per cent of its properties are still in the sluggish City, with another 30 per cent in the patchy West End of London. The problem can be overstated though: the hangover of "over-rented" central London sites from the 1980s, where lease renewals will come nowhere near matching previous rent levels, will not hit the annual rent roll by more than £5.8m in the next five years, the company reckons.

If Labour moves to further tighten planning rules for out-of-town retail developments, that should redound to the benefit of Land Sec's mainly city-centre properties. The only question is whether Ian Henderson, who moves up

more Harvest Inns, while the Fork & Pitcher outlets have been renamed Vintage Inns to suit its older audience better.

In branded drinks, Hooper's Hooch continues to dominate the alcopop market with a 60 per cent share, though sales growth has slowed to 16 per cent on last year. On full-year forecasts of £728m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 15 falling to 14. Hold.

#### Courtaulds leaves troubles behind

Courtaulds' shares have been under a cloud of late, hit by concerns about the pound and other matters. But yesterday the market was in the mood to be a little more charitable, marking the shares up 24.5p to 330.5p. The problems of two years ago, when the price of key raw materials like wood pulp and acrylic nitrile soared, are now well and truly in the past.

The other local difficulties have been well flagged. The seemingly ever-present problems with currency are well known, while Courtaulds signalled that it was having problems with overcapacity in the viscose market when it announced plans to cut 20 per cent of its European production in February.

So despite the 2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.3m in the year to March, looked modest, part of the performance was masked by a £1.4m contribution last year from discontinued operations like Amico floors and the cellophane business. There was plenty to be hopeful about in the underlying group.

Tencel, the new fibre in which Courtaulds has invested £400m so far, including £60m last year, has at last broken into profit. The group is coy about how profitable it is, but David Ingles at James Capel reckons it could have chipped in £14m on just under £100m sales last year. That augurs well for the third production line due on stream in Grimsby later this year and the next Tencel plant, due to be built in Korea, Indonesia or Singapore.

Meanwhile, the group's long-term plan to build sales of other products in the Far East is also starting to pay off, with a 45 per cent jump in profits to £16m from the area. Worldwide coatings and sealants, still far by the biggest product division, is suffering from the cheaper dollar on translation, but Courtaulds' strong position in niche areas like solvent-free powder coatings and aircraft sealants is playing good growth.

Viscose remains the dog of the portfoli, producing a small loss last year. It will not show real improvement until the industry cuts more capacity.

But assuming Capel's forecast of £150m is realised this year, the shares, on a forward p/e of 14, look reasonable value.

#### Hotel problems cloud Bass results

The brewing sector has lost some momentum in recent months and Bass is no exception. After a strong run which lasted for the whole of 1995 and most of last year, the shares have come off their January peak of 875p. They fell a further 22.5p to 793.5p yesterday, despite half-year profits in line with expectations at £318m. In fact, the City's worries about the company lay elsewhere.

Though the uncertainty over Gala bingo saw profits fall almost a third due to intense competition and a drop in admissions, its average customer is diverted into spending £6 a week on the National Lottery.

In Bass' Taverns, the expansion of new O'Neill's Irish pub format has slowed. The number of rooms only

increased by 0.25 per cent over last year and most of the new rooms coming on stream are in lower-margin budget accommodation rather than in full-service hotels.

The second issue is acquisitions. The City feels the Bass balance sheet is under-utilised and that the company needs a major deal to drive earnings forward. A bid for the William Hill chain of betting shops is one possibility, though Bass could have picked the business up last year for less than the £608.4m it would have to pay now.

The City is therefore equally concerned that Bass will pay a big strategic premium, either for William Hill or a hotels chain. Hill would make a good fit with Bass's Coral chain, which had a bumper half, helped by the cancellation of fewer winter race meetings and improved margins.

Elsewhere in the leisure division, Gala bingo saw profits fall almost a third due to intense competition and a drop in admissions. Its average customer is diverted into spending £6 a week on the National Lottery.

In Bass' Taverns, the expansion of new O'Neill's Irish pub format has slowed. The number of rooms only

#### Ultimate Range

##### Interest Free Credit

At these models you qualify on Interest Free Credit with similar Pay Now, Pay Later terms. Pay prior VAT included with these models.

##### WinStation™ F

**200+**

Offer must end on 31st of May

Offer ends 31st May

THE INDEPENDENT  
director  
t after  
g fiasco



COMMENT

'Even if he proves himself as sprightly as Jacques Villeneuve between now and Silverstone, it is hard to see how he can meet his timetable'

## Ecclestone's Formula One win is not in the bag

The flotation of Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One may not be quite as close to the starting grid as his financial advisers Salomon Brothers and his fans in the sport and the Press have been telling everyone.

The City had been led to believe that all final obstacles to the float had been overcome. Mr Ecclestone had patched up his row with the leading Grand Prix teams, they had settled for a 10 per cent stake in the quoted company and there was even talk of a prospectus being published by the end of this week. To all we were told, the flotation would reach the chequered flag at Silverstone in July.

All this is news, it now transpires, to the likes of Williams and McLaren, who have led the rearguard action to stop Mr Ecclestone cashing in his chips without a fairer distribution of spoils in those who actually make this particular merry-go-round rotate - the racing teams themselves.

It now appears that they are holding out for a stake of nearly 20 per cent and still bickering over the details of the Concorde Agreement, which governs how the television revenues are shared out. Some of this may be just bravado, but that doesn't make it any less of a threat to the float.

Even if Mr Ecclestone proves himself as sprightly as Jacques Villeneuve between now and Silverstone, it is hard to see how he can meet his timetable. How could he publish a prospectus - other than one with a health warning on every page - without

the agreement of the most important names in the sport?

Mind you, he is doing his best to stifle dissent in the City. It will, by all accounts, be difficult to move at this weekend's Spanish Grand Prix without dumping into an analyst or fund manager there at Formula One's expense. In time-honoured fashion, the underwriting of the offer is being distributed as widely as possible. The same tactics were employed by BSkyB and the water and electricity companies to ensure that their flotations were greeted with maximum enthusiasm in the broking community.

Mr Ecclestone could call the constructors' bluff and press ahead regardless. But could he really float without the likes of Villeneuve, Frentzen, Coulthard and Hakkinen in tow? The constructors' ultimate weapon is to withdraw their teams. Mr Ecclestone is familiar with such tactics. It is what he did at the Spanish Grand Prix in 1982 after falling out with the powers that be in the sport. So he should know better than most that playing hard ball usually works.

### The Bank is better off without this task

First impressions are usually the most lasting, but the more considered second view is often the more reliable. So after the rave first-night reviews of Gordon Brown's latest City drama, Death on Throgmorton St, is

there any cause now for a little revisionism. Well actually not very much seems to be the answer.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, is plainly more upset about the whole thing than we were led to believe on the first night. He still worries about whether this is the right thing to do and is understandably peeved about not being consulted on the speed of it all. If he had been told two weeks ago who operational independence was announced that the quid pro quo was losing supervision, all well and good. But he wasn't. The Chancellor said that reform of City regulation was a longer-term goal after a period of debate and due consultation. Then, all of a sudden it becomes immediate. Is Mr George right to be concerned, or is this just pique at being stripped of half his empire?

There is a quite respectable case for arguing that, far from strengthening City regulation, the reforms will actually only lessen the Bank's authority and lead to an inferior form of banking supervision. There is a real danger, moreover, of the SIB evolving into an overly bureaucratic and authoritarian regulatory monster. That would clearly be a very bad thing for the City, significantly undermining its present attractions to international capital and banking. The function of good regulation, it is often said, is to keep the horses under control while not in any way interfering in the race. Certainly the traditionally "light" touch of City regulators has

been as much a part of the Square Mile's success as its failings.

Central to this approach is the way the Bank of England exerts informal authority in the City through its supervisory arm. While this may be a peculiarly British way which leaves much to be desired, it nonetheless seems to work. Remove the Governor's eyes, so to speak, and his eyebrows won't work any more either.

Despite these risks, however, there is every reason to believe that the Bank will actually function rather better stripped of its supervisory role, and that's not just in the conduct of monetary policy.

Short of supervision, the Bank can devote all its energies to policy, which is not going to be diverted every five years or so by some massive banking scandal. Furthermore, the Bank will still retain overall responsibility for financial stability, so that when there is a crisis it will be taking up the reins in dealing with it. In other words it keeps the interesting bits while getting shot of the liability of the donkey work. Just think of it. Next time there's a banking collapse it won't be possible to blame the Bank. Instead the Bank will come waltzing in with the words: "Here's another fine mess the SIB has left us to sort out". Don't knock it Mr George. This seems like a pretty good deal for the Bank.

Less clear is whether the reforms will actually improve the system of supervision. Making sure that they do, and that City reg-

ulation continues to be operated in the interests of practitioners as well as consumers, is one for the process of public consultation.

### Pilkington chief departs on schedule

The departure of the urbane Roger Leverton as chief executive of Pilkington is one of those stories that seemed so utterly predictable that it becomes hard to register it as a story at all. The writing was on the wall as far back as November last year when the share price first dipped back through the level of the 1995 rights issue. His exit became pretty much inevitable with March's profits warning.

As it happens, the dreadful underperformance of the Pilkington share price is not all down to Mr Leverton. He's been operating in an appalling market place. The price of glass has been falling like a stone for the best part of two years now and the European authorities have meanwhile proved resistant to any co-ordinated approach to dealing with the industry's chronic overcapacity problem.

Even so, when a company is in a fix more can always be done. Mr Leverton plainly wasn't doing it, so Sir Nigel Rudd, chairman of three years standing, felt justified in taking action. Sir Nigel will have to pray that the new man, a vicious cost-cutter out of the same mould as Sir Nigel himself, can do better. Otherwise Sir Nigel too might find himself walking the plank.

## Railtrack faces fines if it reneges on spending plans

Randeep Ramesh  
Transport Correspondent

Railtrack, the privatised owner of Britain's track, signalling and stations, will face fines if the company fails to deliver on its £16bn spending plans. John Swift QC, the rail regulator, said yesterday that he was seeking to extend his powers to ensure that Railtrack met its targets, as the company's delivery against its plans to date had been "disappointing".

The move was seen by many industry observers as the first of a series of measures under the new Labour administration designed to increase customer confidence in industries privatised by previous Conservative governments.

Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday pledged changes to the regulatory system governing bus services, saying there were "severe problems" in the regu-

latory system and there would be changes made to it.

But while the Government contemplates further legislation for buses, the slow pace of investment by Railtrack has forced Mr Swift to act. He said: "There remains a substantial backlog of expenditure on network assets, stations and depots which Railtrack must eradicate as a priority."

With all the train companies' subsidies fixed under the franchising process, Mr Swift is quick to point out that "most of [Railtrack's] annual expenditure is funded by the state". More than £2bn of public money will be poured into Railtrack this year - accounting for more than 85 per cent of its turnover.

"Assurances that the capital and maintenance programme will be carried out require something more bankable than the expression of intentions," he said. The regulator's announce-

ment came just a day after Railtrack outlined a £1bn plan to upgrade the nation's stations under its network management strategy. He praised the vision presented by the company. "We have to accept that the spending is far better than it was when Railtrack was in the public sector," said Mr Swift.

Railtrack claimed it was too early to comment on the announcement in detail, despite being kept fully informed by the regulator's office of the policy since the middle of March.

There is little the company can do to stop the regulator from obtaining new powers. It could seek a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference, and would then have to prove the regulator was acting against the public interest. Even if the MMC were to agree, the regulator only has to take into account the commission's view and could press ahead regardless,

## National Power to pay MoD over delays

Michael Harrison

National Power yesterday launched its campaign to be excluded from the windfall tax, arguing that since privatisation the company had raised nearly £7bn for the taxpayer, more than twice the amount shareholders had received. However, the generator declined to follow the lead of British Telecom and the airports operator BAA by threatening legal action against the Government if it was included in the levy.

Keith Henry, National Power's chief executive, said: "A legal challenge is not high on our agenda. We feel it extremely unlikely that the Government would do anything illegal".

The company said it should be excluded from the tax because it was not a price-regulated monopoly, but had made excess profits and operated in a competitive market with an increasing proportion of revenue earned overseas.

Mr Henry also argued that the taxpayer had enjoyed a windfall gain from the privatisation of National Power because of the way the Government had sold it in two stages.

According to an analysis sent to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, by the company, gains for the taxpayer from the sale of National Power totalled £6.825bn to March 1996. This figure included £3.806bn in net proceeds, £265m of dividends on the 40 per cent stake the Government initially retained and £2.1bn in corporation tax, VAT and National Insurance contributions.

Against that, the company said that shareholders benefited by £2.86bn over the same period through dividends and the increase in market value. The figure does not include the £1.2bn special dividend National Power paid last year.

National Power yesterday reported an 8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits last year to £740m as its UK market share shrank from 32 per cent to 24 per cent and wholesale electricity prices fell 4 per cent.

The company forecast a further drop in market share this year to as little as 20 per cent as competition from independent generators increased. UK operating profits fell by £70m last year to £783m, but this was offset by an increase in overseas profits from £15m to £74m.

Most three million members of Norwich Union, the UK mutual insurer seeking a stock market flotation, will be able to buy further shares at a 10 per cent discount, it was announced yesterday.

Members will pay 25p a share less than the strike price for the £2.4bn offer, which is to be fixed in an institutional book-building exercise.

Norwich Union said it was setting aside shares worth an estimated £800m especially for members. A further £400m will be clawed back from institutions if, as expected, demand from members is high enough.

Part of the total sale includes £670m of shares which are to be sold for the benefit of members living in the United States and a number of other countries

where it is legally difficult to allocate free shares.

The company estimates the public offer price of its shares will be in the range of 240p to 290p, with members offered the discount on a minimum further investment of £400.

Other retail investors will have to buy at least £1,000 of shares.

All members have already been allocated a minimum of 150 free shares, with a typical windfall of between £800 and £1,000.

George Paul, NU chairman, said: "We are keen to encourage members to continue to participate in the future of the group. I hope that they will take advantage of this opportunity to buy further shares."

Alan Richards, a director at First Marathon, the corporate finance house, said: "The price of the shares will depend on the book-building exercise. But I

would be surprised if the price wasn't at the top of the range and the discount is attractive.

Financial services shares have done very well recently, although shares are quite frosty.

Mini-prospects and application forms are to be sent to members now, with 10 June set as the deadline for receipt of applications.

The company said it expected its market capitalisation to be up to £5.6bn. Of this, some £3bn will be issued in the form of free shares to members, with the rest sold off in an international offer.

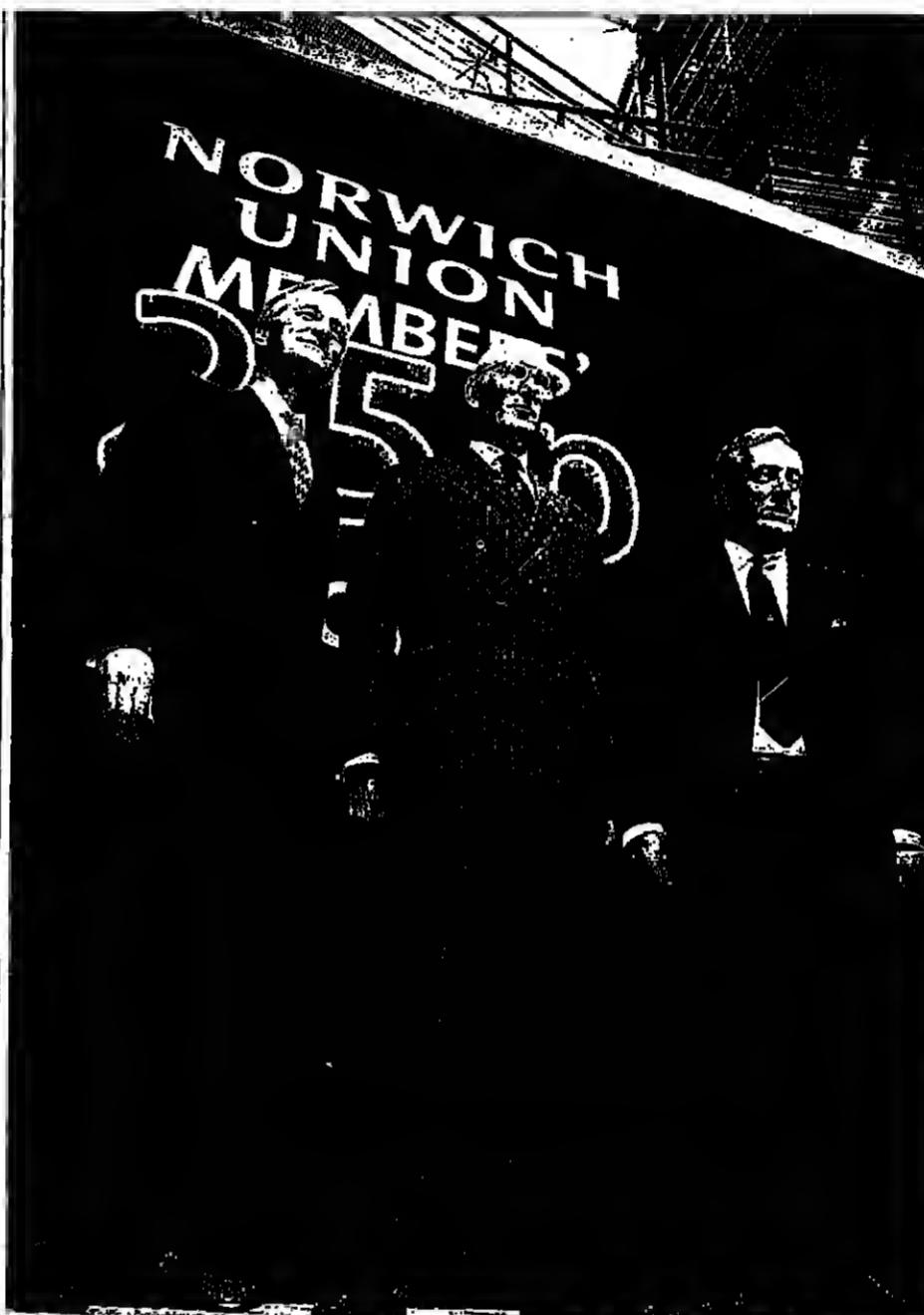
Senior management set out on a roadshow yesterday to sell their story to investors. Richard Harvey, group chief executive elect, said the average free share distribution will be in the range of £1.524 to £1.840, with 43 per cent receiving the 300 share minimum, worth over £720.

**Pillar Property buys Fort Retail Park**  
Wilson Bowden is selling Fort Retail Park, its 128,000 square foot retail warehouse development in Edinburgh, to Pillar Property Investments for £41.8m. Construction of the park was scheduled for completion later this year and would comprise fashion retail warehouse accommodation in 12 units, the majority of which had already been pre-let, it said.

**Operating margins down at Bowthorpe**

Investors at Bowthorpe's annual general meeting were told that the company's operating margins had been declining. Anthony Vice, chairman, said: "So far this year sales and orders have shown modest underlying growth but weaker markets, especially in Europe, have led to a decline in operating margins, although we have seen some recovery during April." He said the strength of sterling, particularly against European currencies, had continued to impact profits through translation. "Management figures indicate that the translation cost so far this year, in terms of pre-tax profits, has been running at an annual rate of £7m-£8m."

**OFT investigates Canadian gas company**  
The Office of Fair Trading is investigating the activities of a Canadian company which is offering gas customers in the North West guaranteed reductions in their bills in return for paying a one-off fee. An OFT spokesman confirmed a report in the magazine *Utility Week* that it had launched an inquiry after receiving complaints about Atlantic Gas Alliance. In return for a fee of £30 AGA promises to secure gas at a lower price than that offered by rival suppliers to British Gas. *Utility Week* said the local gas consumers council had branded the scheme "a waste of mon-



Sharing it out: (from left) Richard Harvey, NU's chief executive elect, George Paul, chairman, and Alan Bridgewater, the current chief executive. Photograph: Emma Boam

## Norwich members offered further shares at a discount

Nic Cicuti

**Citibank PC Banking.**  
**Free Software. Free Service. Free Setup.**  
**Free demo - 0800 00 88 00.**

Call us anytime or visit our website <http://www.citibank.co.uk>

With Citibank's PC Banking you can review, manage and record your finances 365 days a year.

For full terms and conditions, call 0800 00 88 00. Citibank International plc. Registered office: 299 Strand, London WC2R 1HB. A registered mark of Citibank N.A. Ultimately owned by Citicorp, New York, USA.

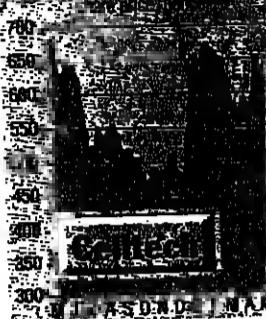
**CITIBANK**  
THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS.

# market report / shares

## Data Bank

<b>FTSE 100</b>	1642.0	+34.5
<b>FTSE 250</b>	4500.4	+1.7
<b>FTSE 350</b>	2249.3	+1.5
<b>SEAO VOLUME</b>	812.1	-0.1
<b>49.00</b>	1.00	-0.1
<b>Gilt Index</b>	96.63	-0.01

## Share spotlight



## Norwich is no help as funds rush to buy financials

The Norwich Union discount could put further pressure on City institutions striving to adjust their portfolios to the new financial climate.

The insurer's members-come-shareholders will be offered up to half the shares available in the group's flotation. The stock market took the view that the cut-price offer was sufficiently generous to encourage Norwich members to take up extra shares, thereby reducing the amount available for outside investors, particularly institutions.

The flotation of Norwich and a host of building societies has thrown the normally carefully structured weightings of many funds into disarray.

Hence the institutional rush to buy financial shares to try and keep their ratios intact. "Norwich has offered fund managers little comfort," said one market man.

The price range was lifted

from 220p to 265p in March to 240p to 290p. Members get a 25p a share discount.

The Norwich arrival, just after Chancellor Gordon Brown is due to deliver his first Budget, is, on present form, seen as a surefire success, with the shares expected to move comfortably above 300p. But Mr Brown could upset the Norwich apple cart if his measures put the market in retreat.

Legal & General was the most obvious beneficiary of the Norwich terms, gaining 30.5p to 455.5p. Others up in sympathy included GRE and General Accident.

Many observers believe Norwich, despite a capitalisation of up to £5.6bn, could quickly find itself involved in takeover action. The soon-to-be-quoted Halifax is one possible bidder. But Norwich may not stand still to await its predicted fate. It may well decide to strike the first blow.



## MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN  
stock market reporter of the year

Footsie climbed 34.5 points to 4,642, reflecting relief over the no-change US interest rate decision. At one time the index was up 46.3.

The biotechs had a shocking time. Celltech fell out of its prime after Bayer decided to abandon a septic shock drug developed with Celltech. The German giant had made positive noises about the treatment in the past few weeks.

Celltech tumbled 289p to 341p; Scotia 10p to 392.5p and Biocompatibles International 32.5p to 1,330p. Cantab Pharmaceuticals gave up 47.5p to 917.5p.

Bluebird, the toys group, was another major casualty, slumping

163p to 106.5p as it warned about profits. The shares touched 385p 18 months ago.

Skechers, off 23p to 65p, Drills of Bath (1p to 2p) and Courts Consulting (12p to 35p) were others inflicting trading gloom on their shareholders. London & Edinburgh, a publisher which came to market in August forecasting profits of £400,000, fell 2.5p to 92.5p after saying profits would be around £20,000. The shares were floated at 10p.

Rolls-Royce flew 5.5p higher to 245p. After the market closed the aero engines group disclosed that once again overseas shareholders could be forced to sell shares as foreign

investment had reached the maximum 29.5 per cent of the capital. The ceiling was imposed by the Government to ensure Rolls remained under British control. Rolls and British Aerospace, which has a similar ceiling, have without success made representations to get the restriction removed.

In the past when foreign shareholdings have broken through the ceiling, Rolls has been forced to sell the offending shares, creating angry responses from the shareholders involved who are often out of pocket.

Land Securities, up 29.5p to 873.5p, led properties higher as it reported a 13.3 per cent NAV increase. British Land added 26p to 585.5p and Brixton Estates 11.5p to 210p.

Cadbury Schweppes, weak lately, rose 16p to 541.5p following analyst meetings and Merrill Lynch offered a gentle nudge to Railtrack, up 8.5p to

440p. Engineer Cobham rose 5p to 643.5p following the Henderson Croxwhite investment dinner.

Pilkington's new chief executive lifted the shares 6p to 121.5p with the warrants 3.5p higher at 17p.

An encouraging trading statement from Arjo Wiggins Appleton helped the harshest packaging and paper sector. Arjo put on 6.5p to 174p and Rexam 7p to 23p.

Publisher Adesine held at 149.5p, its decision not to sell

its commercial printing arm is seen as supporting takeover

speculation.

The day's newcomer, the

forklift truck group born out of the old World Fluids shell, rose 3p to 69.5p after reporting a £714,000 first-quarter profit and the £500,000 acquisition of a Humberside crane company. Although operating in England and Scotland, Peterhead's shares remain in the Dublin market.

## Taking Stock

□ Aminex, the oil group where the World Bank and Russian investors have substantial shareholdings, rose 11.5p to 85p, a new high, after disclosing its long-awaited Russian deal. It has agreed to develop a partnership with local interests, officials in Tatarstan, a Russian republic, which has sizeable reserves. Aminex, run by Brian Hall, already has substantial interests in the former Soviet Union. Last year it lost \$955,000 against \$2.4m in the previous year.

□ Peterhead, a crane and

forklift truck group born out of the old World Fluids shell, rose 3p to 69.5p after reporting a £714,000 first-quarter profit and the £500,000 acquisition of a Humberside crane company. Although operating in England and Scotland, Pe-

terhead's shares remain in the

Dublin market.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, except for exceptional items.

Other details: Ex rights & ex-dividend date; 1st of month; United Securities Market; Suspended

Source: FT Information

□ Party Paid pm Nt Paid Shares + AM Stock

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 223 333, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 223 333 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation Issues 36

UK Stock Market Report 01 Bulletin Report 05 Water Shares 39

UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40

Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Stock Market 21 High Street Banks 41

Anytime 04 700am - 5pm The

Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 223 333.

For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4376 (800am - 5pm).

For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4376 (800am - 5pm).

Source: FT Information

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volumes	Stock	Volumes	Stock	Volumes
Centrica	220,000	Guinness	180,000	British Steel	75,000
BT	240,000	Rolex	100,000	Barclays	72,000
Prudential	170,000	Brown	100,000	British Land	72,000
Shell Transport	150,000	Lloyds TSB	95,000	Midland	70,000
HSBC	130,000	Mitsui	100,000	Continental	65,000
		Cable & Wire	77,000	BT	60,000

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 4688 up 93	11.00 4651.3 up 22.6	14.00 4647.1 up 26.6
09.00 4622.3 up 148	12.00 4639.7 up 32.3	15.00 4644.4 up 36.8
10.00 4635.2 up 277	13.00 4644.3 up 37.3	16.00 4642.0 up 34.5

Close 4642.0 up 34.5

## Oil Exploration

High Low Stock Price Chg Yd Pct Chg

Abbot Group 200.00 195.00 200.00 -1.00 -0.5%

Centrica 220,000 190.00 220,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Guinness 180,000 170.00 180,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Rolex 100,000 160.00 100,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Barclays 72,000 150.00 72,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Midland 70,000 140.00 70,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Continental 65,000 130.00 65,000 -1.00 -0.5%

HSBC 60,000 120.00 60,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Cable & Wire 55,000 110.00 55,000 -1.00 -0.5%

BT 50,000 100.00 50,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Aerospace 45,000 90.00 45,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Sherriff 40,000 80.00 40,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Salvation 35,000 70.00 35,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Gascoigne 30,000 60.00 30,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Selected 25,000 50.00 25,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Cooper 20,000 40.00 20,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Shore 15,000 30.00 15,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 10,000 20.00 10,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 5,000 10.00 5,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 2,000 5.00 2,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 1,000 2.00 1,000 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 500 1.00 500 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 200 500 500 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 100 200 100 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 50 100 50 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 25 50 25 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 10 25 10 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 5 10 5 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 2 5 2 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 1 2 1 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 0.5 1 0.5 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 0.2 0.5 0.2 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 0.1 0.2 0.1 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 0.05 0.1 0.05 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 0.02 0.05 0.02 -1.00 -0.5%

Shoreline 0.01 0.02 0.01 -1.00 -0.5%

# A stitch in time saves us from the ravages of boom and bust

The spotlight has certainly been playing on the Bank of England during the past three eventful weeks. After Gordon Brown's announcement that the Government would create a new super-regulator which would take banking supervision under its wing, there is no doubt about what the Bank of England's core business will be in future. It's interest rates, interest rates and interest rates.

Ever since the Chancellor sprung his first surprise, critics of Bank of England independence have been muttering that it is a recipe for disaster putting responsibility for meeting the inflation target in the hands of the central bank – for heaven's sake, it's full of inflation hawks, they argue. Chief economist Mervyn King is seen by these parties as a particular killjoy, probably because it is his duty to present the Inflation Report, which has tried to explain why growth of 1 per cent a quarter will eventually lead to higher inflation.

The critics are a menace. They are like the kind of youths who race past you in a souped-up old Ford Escort with go-faster stripes towards the lights just as they are turning amber. They want to keep their foot down on the accelerator hut will end up having to slam the brakes on at the red light.

The yob element among the commentators means the Bank will have to carry on explaining, slowly and patiently, why it is better to run a "stitch in time" policy. It is not that Mr King and his colleagues are "sado-monetarists" who want to keep the nation in permanent recession to guard against a minute risk of inflation. Rather, they understand, as the hot-headed hedonists do not, that it is better for business and consumers to put up with a handful of early small interest rate increases than face much higher rates a bit too late. It might mean £10 or £20 a month extra on the mortgage but will save home-owners thousands of pounds over the life of the loan.

There is new evidence for the benefits of running a cautious and stable macroeconomic policy in re-



Diane Coyle

**At long last, interest rate policy is in the hands of a steady, middle-aged driver with his foot touching the brake, his eyes on the amber light and nothing to distract him**

search published recently by the International Monetary Fund. It shows that a lot of unemployment is created when the monetary authorities have to engineer a recession to reduce inflation when the economy overheats. This exceeds the unemployment that remains if the economy is prevented from growing enough to reach the "non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment" (Nairu).

In other words, it makes sense not to squeeze unemployment absolutely as low as can go without triggering inflation because the costs of going too far are so high. In the words of the authors: "There can be significant gains from preventing an overheating of the economy." There is an asymmetry in the

results of monetary policy that will bias a competent central bank towards caution. "A macroeconomic policy that avoids boom and bust cycles can in fact raise the average level of employment and output."

To understand this is helpful to go back to the original relationship between inflation and unemployment, known as the Phillips curve after the economist who devised it in 1958. Plotted as a graph, this curve slopes down – the lower unemployment, the higher is inflation.

Most economists believe that in the long run, there is no trade-off between inflation and unemployment. If the government stimulates the economy there will be a temporary gain in jobs at the price of higher inflation. But as people adjust to the increase in inflation and bid for higher wages to compensate, unemployment will rise again and the economy will be back to the same jobless rate but will still have bottlenecks.

It is not clear quite how big the costs of a boom and bust policy might be, but the paper concludes that unemployment will certainly be higher. The Bank of England's preference for a stitch in time, expressed again by Eddie George yesterday, will help to reduce the unemployment rate on average, even if it prevents as big a drop in joblessness as could be achieved right now.

It must be said, too, that the Bank is not unduly gloomy about the inflationary dangers. The forecast it presented in last week's Inflation Report, which made the technical assumption of unchanged interest rates, was lower than many independent forecasts, which assume there will be further rate rises.

At long last, interest rate policy is in the hands of a steady, middle-aged driver with his foot touching the brake, his eyes on the amber light and nothing to distract him. As long as they go ahead as planned, Mr Brown's reforms will yield lower inflation, lower interest rates and lower unemployment for years to come. The Chancellor has decided that the classic British hand-brake turns are not for him. Thank goodness the Bank of England is not keen on them either.

\*Phillips Curves, Phillips Lines and the Unemployment Costs of Overheating, Peter Clarke and Douglas Lazear, IMF Working Paper February 1997.

flation rise by 1 percentage point. The paper shows that experience since the early 1970s supports this view. It could be caused by, for example, the tendency for bottlenecks to emerge in some segments of the jobs market which would prevent wages from falling below a certain floor. The economy will tend towards a normal – or "natural" – rate of unemployment which will be higher than the Nairu if demand is volatile. Booms will trigger wage and price inflation quite quickly, whereas busts will not achieve a big reduction in wage and price inflation as unemployment rises because some bits of the jobs market will still have bottlenecks.

It is not clear quite how big the costs of a boom and bust policy might be, but the paper concludes that unemployment will certainly be higher. The Bank of England's preference for a stitch in time, expressed again by Eddie George yesterday, will help to reduce the unemployment rate on average, even if it prevents as big a drop in joblessness as could be achieved right now.

It must be said, too, that the Bank is not unduly gloomy about the inflationary dangers. The forecast it presented in last week's Inflation Report, which made the technical assumption of unchanged interest rates, was lower than many independent forecasts, which assume there will be further rate rises.

At long last, interest rate policy is in the hands of a steady, middle-aged driver with his foot touching the brake, his eyes on the amber light and nothing to distract him. As long as they go ahead as planned, Mr Brown's reforms will yield lower inflation, lower interest rates and lower unemployment for years to come. The Chancellor has decided that the classic British hand-brake turns are not for him. Thank goodness the Bank of England is not keen on them either.

In fact it was NCR pretend money. Seeing this, our Bill declared: "Ah well, I guess I've got enough money in my case," to much sycophantic laughter.

# Courtaulds chief turns his back on the wonder fabric

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS



No fashion fact: Gordon Campbell casually shunned t-shirt and jeans

Courtaulds chief executive Gordon Campbell was in his usual relaxed mood yesterday, but not sufficiently relaxed to follow the latest fashion to dress down. He told City scribes: "I thought I should apologise for wearing a suit this morning and not following the trend to casual clothing. I ought to have pitched up in a T-shirt and jeans."

The *faux pas* was made worse by the fact that Tencel, Courtaulds' new wonder fabric, made a splash in Japan as a replacement for denim. Mr Campbell revealed that Tencel sales have moved beyond Japan and are now strongest in Europe, where customers like something "innovative and unique". So now you know.

Manchester's tram and rail network, Altram, has got a new chairman – the former chief executive of Manchester Airport, Sir Gilbert Thompson.

Now that's what I call good timing. Just as the airport people are trying to unearth folk hero Swampy from his tunnel below the proposed site for the new runway, Sir Gilbert is taking over a tram system that is the epitome of environmental friendliness.

Altram is made up of John Laing, Ansaldo Trasporti, Serco and the Si Group, which is to build and operate Manchester's Metrolink extension to Salford

Keys and Eccles by 2000. This will extend the city centre tram system which has proved such a hit with the public.

So Swampy can do his worst – Sir Gilbert is riding high.

The "world's richest man", Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, was addressing a conference this week held by NCR, the cashpoint company, in New York. The great man, who is estimated to be worth around \$32bn (or something like that) was chatting to the audience, and to illustrate the uses of a new programme, used his card to get some money out of an ATM near on stage.

"Then last Friday all these posters went up, and we started getting lots of calls from journalists about it. We've written to UK Living asking for an explanation."

One suspects that, whatever the outcome of Mr Tyrell's enquiries, UK Living will have got its publicity. Pass the cream cakes.

They're a pediatric lot at the Epsom RAC Club. Robert Fenner of City law firm Fenners enjoys spending Sundays at the club, playing tennis and golf and taking tea with his wife.

John Willcock

Recently however, he found that the service in the club was a bit slow and thought they needed more staff, so he said so in the suggestions book.

The RAC Club then wrote to him saying this was a complaint and not a suggestion, and was therefore inappropriate for the suggestions book.

This floored Mr Fenner. Apparently he should have complained to the duty manager at the time. On the other hand he doesn't want me to make too much of this: "I don't want to lose my membership, after all."

One usually thinks of rugby players as a pretty basic lot, but the coach for the British Lions tour to South Africa thinks differently.

Ian McGeechan sent the squad off to an empowerment course last week before they jetted off to the veldt. You know, all that stuff about building bridges with planks. It will be interesting to see whether the course, provided by Impact Development Training Group of Windermere, Cumbria, will empower the players to beat the mighty Springboks.

As we reveal the latest in the Formula One saga (page 23), news has emerged of another spat involving Bernie Ecclestone, the sport's enigmatic power broker. Bowled over by the success of his new Grand Prix team, Jackie Stewart, former world champion, asked Mr Ecclestone to renegotiate a better slice of television rights. The door, we understand, was firmly closed in his face.

When Mr Stewart arrived for the Monaco Grand Prix he found no space for his motorhome in the team compound and was allocated an inconvenient space away from the other teams near the Royal Palace. When Mr Stewart complained to Mr Ecclestone, back came the response: "You always said you wanted to be near the Royals, so now's your chance."

John Willcock

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling		Dollar		D-Mark	
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
US	1.6467	9.7	26.23	1.000	0.5000
Canada	2.2522	6.50	161.73	1.3685	0.8022
Germany	2.7845	79.73	241.23	1.0650	0.7000
France	2.4780	250.24	738.70	5.7085	4.2578
Italy	1.2430	105.14	303.04	1.1524	0.7525
Japan	1.0835	105.14	303.04	1.1524	0.7525
ECU	1.4300	25.26	86.83	1.5252	1.0520
Belgium	5.7672	16.13	50.44	3.4890	2.4523
Denmark	3.1416	85.82	271.58	1.0655	0.7242
Netherlands	1.0865	3.2	12.6	1.2420	0.8740
Ireland	1.0865	3.2	12.6	1.2420	0.8740
Norway	1.1540	330.20	950.60	7.0440	4.5271
Spain	1.2430	240.90	750.60	7.2540	4.4935
Sweden	1.2430	97.93	291.27	1.4227	1.0427
Australia	2.9560	6.3	20.20	1.2767	0.8512
Hong Kong	1.2430	80.00	194.00	1.4227	1.0427
New Zealand	2.3072	2.8	21.4	1.4370	1.0470
Saudi Arabia	6.9336	0.0	0.0	3.7506	2.2267
Singapore	2.3595	0.0	0.0	1.4371	1.0471

### Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.0426	0.0086	Nigeria	1.0223	60.0000
Bolivia	1.0626	1.0234	Colombia	0.9349	0.3850
Brazil	1.7262	1.0234	Pakistan	0.6447	40.2867
China	1.0745	0.8292	Philippines	0.4280	23.3250
Egypt	2.4000	0.0000	Portugal	1.0223	60.0000
Finland	1.0626	0.0000	Russia	0.9349	0.5700
Ghana	2.2717	0.0000	South Africa	1.0223	44.9595
Greece	4.4498	0.0000	Taiwan	0.4280	23.3250
India	5.5088	0.0000	UAE	0.4271	36.7311
Kuwait	0.9470	0.0000			

Forward rates quoted high to low at a discount; subtract from spot rate.

Rate quoted low to high at a premium; add to spot rate.

\*Dollars rates quoted as reciprocals.

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0800 123 3033.

Calls cost 50p per minute.

### Interest Rates

Country	3m	6m	1yr	yield %
UK	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%	6.25%
France	3.15%	4.50%	5.00%	5.00%
Germany	7.5%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
Italy	2.70%	3.25%	4.10%	4.10%

Yields calculated on fixed basis.

new benchmark

Settlement price

Contract

Settlement date

High/Low

for day

ExDate traded

Open Interest

Lots

Settlement price

# What we have now is a crisis of vested interest, a bundle of new money but no clear idea of how to spend it sensibly

If there is one thing to be learned from the past Premier League season it is that very few home-bred footbalers can hold their own with the best imported talent. It was mostly foreigners who stopped the show - Gianfranco Zola, Juninho, Dennis Bergkamp, Patrick Vieira, Eric Cantona, Roberto Di Matteo, Peter Schmeichel and, when the mood took him, Faustino Asprilla - who provided the liveliest entertainment.

You can go as far as to say that the players available to the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, only Alan Shearer and Tony Adams are entitled to be confident of election for a properly assembled Premier League representative XI. Roy Keane would get in and, perhaps, Ryan Giggs, but being Irish and Welsh respectively,

they do not come into Hoddle's consideration either.

Take last week's FA Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough: players from all sorts of places and not one full England international. No wonder that the Foothall Association's first technical director, Howard Wilkinson, is pressing for a development structure because as things stand there is unlikely to be much of an improvement.

For example, according to a number of managers in the Premier League there is not much point in casting closer to home: little coming through, transfer fees out of all proportion to ability, the flow of talent from Scotland long since dried up. "We don't look there anymore," I was told last week.

Another piece of information suggests a further influx of overseas players. It is that all but the most important performers in Italian football can now be purchased. "It was astonishing to hear some of the names that were mentioned," said the Leeds manager, George Graham.

The inherited problems of Thomas Brodin and Tony Yacob did not deter Graham from making an extensive tour of European football last season. "Even when you allow for the foreigners who have done much here there is better value for money overseas," he said. "With the Bosman thing hanging over them even the wealthiest clubs are looking to cash in on the money that is flowing into the Premier League and it won't surprise me if more big



KEN JONES

names are here before the start of next season."

It seems that Manchester United will enter the transfer market in a big way following Eric Cantona's unexpected retirement. Alex Ferguson's keen eyes are not only on Juninho but

the Croat attacker, Alek Bošić, for whom he made a move last summer before Juventus stepped in.

You can go on and on like this. More imported players, fresh proof that Wilkinson's blueprint for the future was long overdue. Trouble is that a tradition of fragmented government stands in the way of progress. And having made their own investments, how many clubs are prepared to address the problem on a national basis? Wilkinson's blueprint deserves serious consideration but there have been blueprints before that did not lead to anything. Following one of England's many World Cup disappointments the FA brought together a number of luminaries, including Matt Busby and Joe Mercer, but the

ideas they put forward died on the vine.

What we have now, I think, is a crisis of vested interest, a bundle of new money but no clear idea of how to spend it sensibly. "Salaries have gone through the roof but I don't blame the players for getting all they can," one manager said to me last week at the Football of the Year dinner. "I blame the people who agreed their contracts. One of my players asked for £75,000 a year to renew his contract. I told him that he might as well ask for a million because he's not getting it. And what about all these guys who are making a huge profit on their investment in English football?"

I don't know where all this will lead but unless English football responds to the dangers implied by

Wilkinson's report the roof could come tumbling in.

At a recent coaching conference Wilkinson was told that there are 10 full-sized covered football fields in Finland. A climatic necessity perhaps but nevertheless an impressive aid to development. Terry Venables has been shown marvellous facilities in Australia. "The people who took me around assumed automatically that we have similar advantages. It would have been embarrassing to put them right so I put on my best smile and nodded," he said.

As for a team from the Premier League who could argue against Schmeichel, Björneby, Adams, Leboeuf, Petrescu, Keane, Di Matteo, Juninho, Zola, Bergkamp and Sperer. Just two Englishmen.

## Bowlers to the rescue for Kent

### Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN  
reports from Horsham  
Kent 245  
Sussex 102-4

The remains of a giant oak tree tower over the scoreboard on the Barrack Field side of this picturesque ground. It died four years ago, but the club was prohibited from taking it down because it was said to be harbouring bats, which are protected under law.

Subsequent investigation established that no bats had ever existed there; and that is rather like Kent have been this season. Claims that they have batsmen have proved illusory. They had compiled a paltry two batting bonus points before this game and their coach, John Wright, a distinguished Test batsman for New Zealand, must be a puzzle.

On paper Kent have the machinery to pile up the runs; in practice, they tend to dig themselves into huge holes and wait for the bowlers to come along with the metaphorical rope ladders. And that is roughly what happened here yesterday.

By the close Sussex were looking a little bit sick themselves after Ben Phillips had whipped out Toby Radford and Neil Lentham for very few and the leg-spinner Paul Strang, having tied down the Railway End, then winkled out Bill Athey and Keith Greenfield. But unlike Kent, Sussex have not quite rolled over.

Nor have they treated the first 15 or so overs as if it were a Sun-

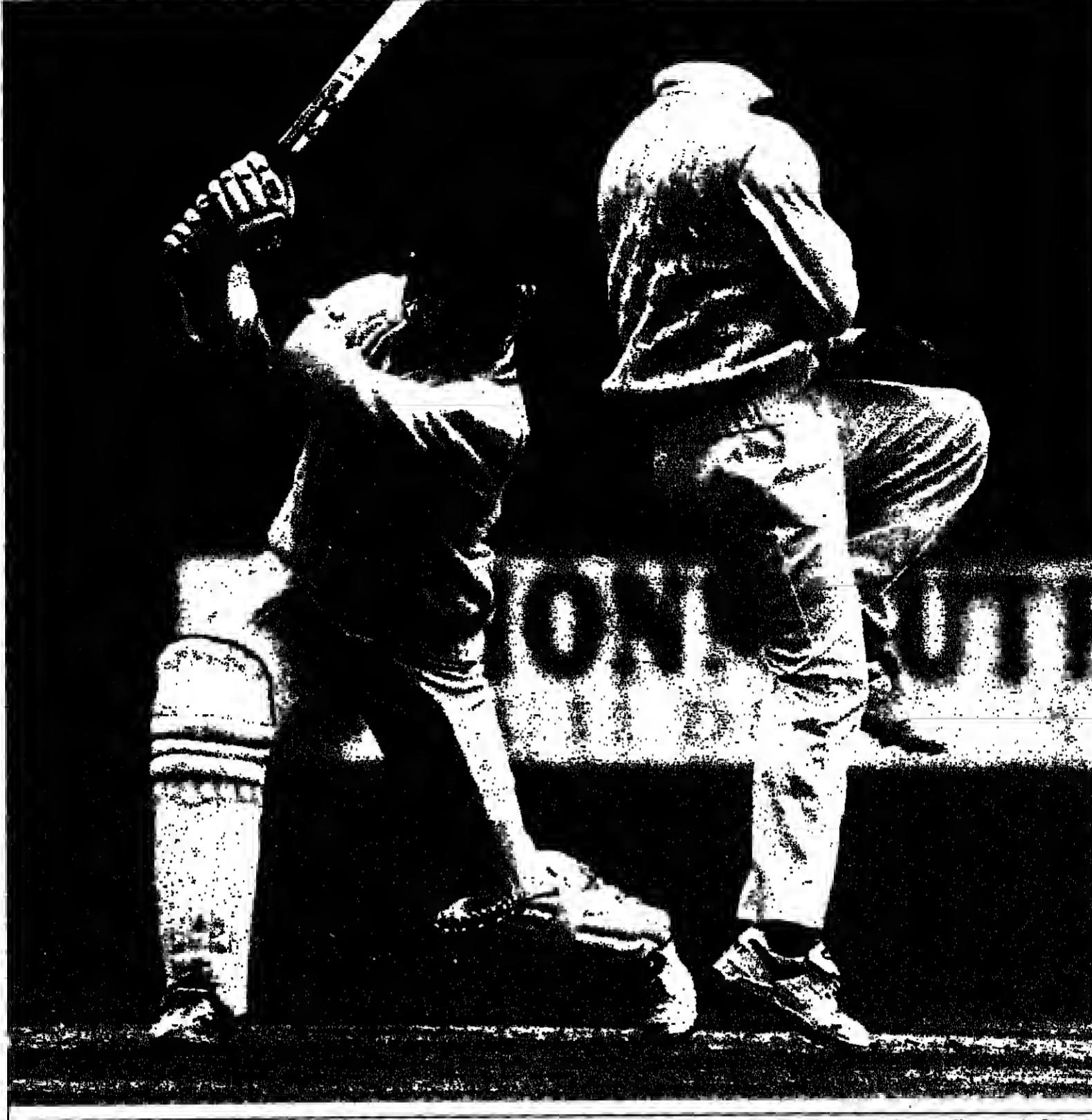
day League match. Kent had a couple of early shocks. Firstly they lost one of their openers, David Fulton, who retired hurt and headed off to the hospital for X-rays on his left forearm after receiving a nasty blow from Paul Jarvis on the second ball of the day (he eventually returned, bruised, to make an unbeaten 35).

Then Matthew Walker departed in the ninth over, by which time he and Trevor Ward had brought up the 50.

Ward, in partnership with the former Sussex captain Alan Wells (who must have dearly wanted to succeed), proceeded to lay the Sussex attack at approximately six runs an over. Much good it did them. They still finished with only one hatting point, because, depleted as the Sussex bowling ranks are, the four who were used stuck to their task, bowling an ideal line and length.

Vasbert Drakes is still nursing a side strain (one of three Sussex bowlers with a similar injury) and was only 80 per cent fit, but perhaps that was part of the secret of his control for a return of three wickets. Jarvis, too, displayed a deal of quality and was rewarded with three wickets.

But the pick of the day was Keith Newell, a deceptive medium pacer. It was he who accounted for Ward, ending his 85-ball stay – during which he struck a dozen boundaries – by having him caught behind for 67. That was the prelude for a career best 4 for 61 for the 25-year-old as he then accounted for Wells, Paul Strang and Ben Phillips.



Matthew Maynard, of Glamorgan, takes evasive action as Matthew Hayden goes on the attack for Hampshire yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

## Yorkshire made to struggle

DAVE HADFIELD  
reports from Old Trafford  
Northamptonshire 281-4  
v Lancashire

A potentially rewarding opening to Lancashire's County Championship season is offering thinner pickings by the day. A fixture list bringing them into contact with the only three teams to finish below them in last year's Championship table held out the illusory promise of a flying start.

Rained off against Durham, soundly beaten by Nottinghamshire and now defeated against Northamptonshire, Lancashire still cannot get airborne.

It could be argued that there were extenuating circumstances

## Lancashire are left becalmed

MIKE CAREY

reports from Trent Bridge  
Derbyshire 283-5  
v Nottinghamshire

Somerset, who were in decent positions in their previous three Championship matches before the weather intervened, suffered a familiar fate at Taunton yesterday. They had Yorkshire on the rack at 52 for 3, it's an improvement from 3 for 2, before play was abandoned for the day at 3.30pm.

Kevin Shine, who had seen Michael Vaughan dropped off his first delivery of the match, removed Martyn Moxon for a duck two balls later.

Vaughan's reprieve proved momentary as in the next over he pushed forward to Andy Caddick and gave a routine catch to wicketkeeper Mike Burns.

When he was on 18 David Byas shouldered arms to a ball by Graham Rose which nipped back and clapped the stumps.

What little play that took place at Cardiff was dominated by Hampshire's Matthew Hayden. Before showers and bad light finally brought a close to a much-interrupted day with his side on 94 for 1, the Australian opener hit his first Championship half-century.

After losing Giles White, caught at third slip by Steve James off Waqar Younis, Hayden and Kevan James made steady progress. Hayden, 54, not out at the close, kept his concentration despite several breaks in play and reached his half-century off 92 balls by driving Darren Thomas through mid-off for his fourth boundary.

As often is the case, the pitch looked more threatening than it played. The ball did not move much off the seam until, for some reason, in mid-afternoon: it was certainly too cold for it to swing, though the occasional uneven bounce and a sluggish pace meant that patience and self-discipline were prime requirements.

It was too, a bleak day to be in the field with an inexperienced attack hut, perhaps encouraged by the knowledge that Derbyshire's batsmen were either out of form or less than fully fit, they did not stick to their task well for the most part.

Later on in a demanding day their control of length and line

was often variable and they will not want to concede so many runs from no balls and wides; but they would also have been cheered by the efforts of their 18-year-old fast bowler Paul Franks, who is clearly a genuine talent.

Even on this pitch he hit the ball hard and compelled the odd hurried stroke. He has clearly been well schooled in the Bas-Sextet League, where Harold Larwood, Bill Voce and Les Jackson learned the rudiments of their trade, though as yet his 6ft 2in frame lacks the muscular power of that formidable trio.

He was unlucky to emerge wicketless. Wayne Noon, diving in front of first slip, which of course is his prerogative, dropped Chris Adams off him just after lunch. But the way he

settled Adams probably had much to do with his dismissal soon afterwards.

By then Derbyshire's batsmen had embarked on a familiar pattern of digging in and then self-destructing. Only Adrian Rollins, hitting a ball from Graeme Archer that might have bounced more than most, could consider himself unfortunate.

Jones himself probably needs time in the middle and made sure he got it, even though he did not always locate the mid-point of the bat early on and was also obliged to treat Franks with some respect. Vince Clarke leant him solid support in a stand worth 122 in 29 overs before carving at a wide one, whereupon Jones was quick to accept the umpires' offer of the light.

### CRICKET SCOREBOARD

#### Britannic Assurance County Championship

(First day of four; today 11.00)

#### Glamorgan v Hampshire

(Second day; Hampshire (Op) are 94 for 1 in the first innings against Glamorgan (Op))

Glamorgan won toss

#### Hampshire - First Innings

M D Mount c Bowler b Shine ..... 1

M W Hutton c Bowler b Shine ..... 2

M Henson not out ..... 54

K O James not out ..... 23

Extras (bd, w2) ..... 11

Total (for 2, 37 overs) ..... 111

Fall: 1-1, 2-3, 3-11

1st Innings: J P Stephenson, P A Smith, W S Kendall, I A N Ayres, S D Udal, J N 2 Bovis, S M Milburn, C A Connor

Bowling: Wager 12-3-33-1; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0

GLAMORGAN - S P James, H Morris, A Dale, J P Maynard, P A Cosley, G P Butcher, T A D Shaw, W H Jones, S D Thomas, K M Morris, C A Parker, K N Howell, Umpires: J H Arms and R Palmer.

#### Somerset v Yorkshire

(Third day; Yorkshire (Op) are 52 for 3 in their first innings against Somerset (Op))

YORKSHIRE - First Innings

M D Mount c Bowler b Shine ..... 1

M W Hutton not out ..... 54

K O James not out ..... 23

Extras (bd, w2) ..... 11

Total (for 2, 37 overs) ..... 114

Fall: 1-1, 2-3, 3-11

1st Innings: J P Stephenson, P A Smith, W S Kendall, I A N Ayres, S D Udal, J N 2 Bovis, S M Milburn, C A Connor

Bowling: Weston 12-3-27-1; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0

YORKSHIRE - First Innings

M D Mount not out ..... 54

M J Walker, M J Hayes, P A Smith, J N 2 Bovis, S M Milburn, C A Connor

Bowling: Weston 12-3-27-1; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0

SOMERSET - First Innings

M D Mount c Bowler b Shine ..... 1

M W Hutton not out ..... 54

K O James not out ..... 23

Extras (bd, w2) ..... 11

Total (for 2, 37 overs) ..... 114

Fall: 1-1, 2-3, 3-11

1st Innings: J P Stephenson, P A Smith, W S Kendall, I A N Ayres, S D Udal, J N 2 Bovis, S M Milburn, C A Connor

Bowling: Weston 12-3-27-1; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0

YORKSHIRE - Second Innings

M D Mount not out ..... 54

M J Walker not out ..... 54

K O James not out ..... 23

Extras (bd, w2) ..... 11

Total (for 2, 38 overs) ..... 115

Fall: 1-1, 2-3, 3-11

1st Innings: J P Stephenson, P A Smith, W S Kendall, I A N Ayres, S D Udal, J N 2 Bovis, S M Milburn, C A Connor

Bowling: Weston 12-3-27-1; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0; Weston 7-4-2-0; Gaze 1-0-2-0

SOMERSET - Second Innings

M D Mount not out ..... 54

M J Walker not out ..... 54

K O James not out ..... 23

Extras (bd, w2) ..... 11

Total (for 2, 38 overs) ..... 116

Fall: 1-1, 2-3, 3-11

1st Innings: J P Stephenson, P A Smith, W S Kendall, I A N Ayres, S D Udal, J N 2 Bovis, S M Milburn, C A Connor

Bowling: Weston 12-3-27-1; Weston 7-4



**sport**

# Leonard given Lions captaincy as Rodber returns to scene of crime

**Rugby Union**CHRIS HEWITT  
reports from Durban

**Tim Rodber** Virgin territory for a dozen new Lions, an uncomfortable feeling of *déjà vu* for Tim Rodber. Three years after leaving Port Elizabeth in disgrace following his dismissal in the now infamous Battle of Bont Erasmus - "What do you have to do to get sent off around here?" he asked the referee that night, only to find out for himself a couple of minutes later - the England No 8 returns to the same stadium on Saturday for the opening fixture of the tour.

No wonder Rodber was feeling queasy yesterday, confined to his hotel room with a feverish high temperature, the Northampton captain was probably the victim of cold sweats as well as hot ones as he contemplated another meeting with Eastern Province. "The incidents that occurred in the England game in Port Elizabeth in

1994 are an irrelevance," insisted Fran Cotton, the Lions manager. "Maybe, but old indignities die hard and Rodber would be less than human were he not to fall prey to some bitter memories between now and the weekend."

Many will argue that Cotton and his fellow selectors should have exercised some diplomacy and allowed Rodber to sit this one out, but they were right to take the opposite view. By picking England's Five Nations' back row en bloc, they have given themselves the best chance of hitting the ground running and dealing with a home side crammed with ringers.

Ian McGeechan, the coach, always planned to make full use of established combinations in the early games and he was true to his principles yesterday. Jeremy Guscott and Scott Gibbs, the 1993 Test centres in New Zealand, renew their acquaintances on Saturday while Keith Wood and Jason Leonard bring their Harlequins club partnership to the front row.

With Martin Johnson opting

for a breather after a 40-match domestic campaign - no English club player gave more of himself last season than the Leicester lock - Leonard has been awarded the captaincy. "This is a high-pressure game and Jason has enormous experience," Cotton said. "He knows what it is to run out in front of 45,000 people away from home and that knowledge will be invaluable."

While Cotton stressed that

Leonard should not be considered a *de facto* vice-captain, it is clear that he is highly prized as a senior tourist. "It's a massive honour and one I didn't expect to receive," said the universally popular and deeply respected prop. "While this game can only be seen as a big challenge - I don't expect any easy matches in South Africa - there are a number of very experienced players in the line-up and that helps."

"I'll have a quiet word in one or two ears before the game but we all know why we're here."

Leonard's role is one of the most intriguing aspects of the tour. Equally capable on both

sides of the scrum, he will play at tight-head, his current position for both club and country, against the Easterns. But he suggested before the tour that he might well switch to loose-head at some stage - he shifted in the opposite direction with enormous effect when the Lions took on the All Blacks four years ago - and left the question hanging once again yesterday.

"Who knows what lies around the corner," he said, cryptically.

The Springboks firm believers that successful rugby starts in the front row, consider the Lions to be short of clout up front and are confident of uncovering a weakness or two at the sharp end. If Tom Smith, the Scottish new boy, and Graham Rowntree, the current England loose-head, fail to impress early on, they may well find Leonard on their case as well as a meaty South African or two.

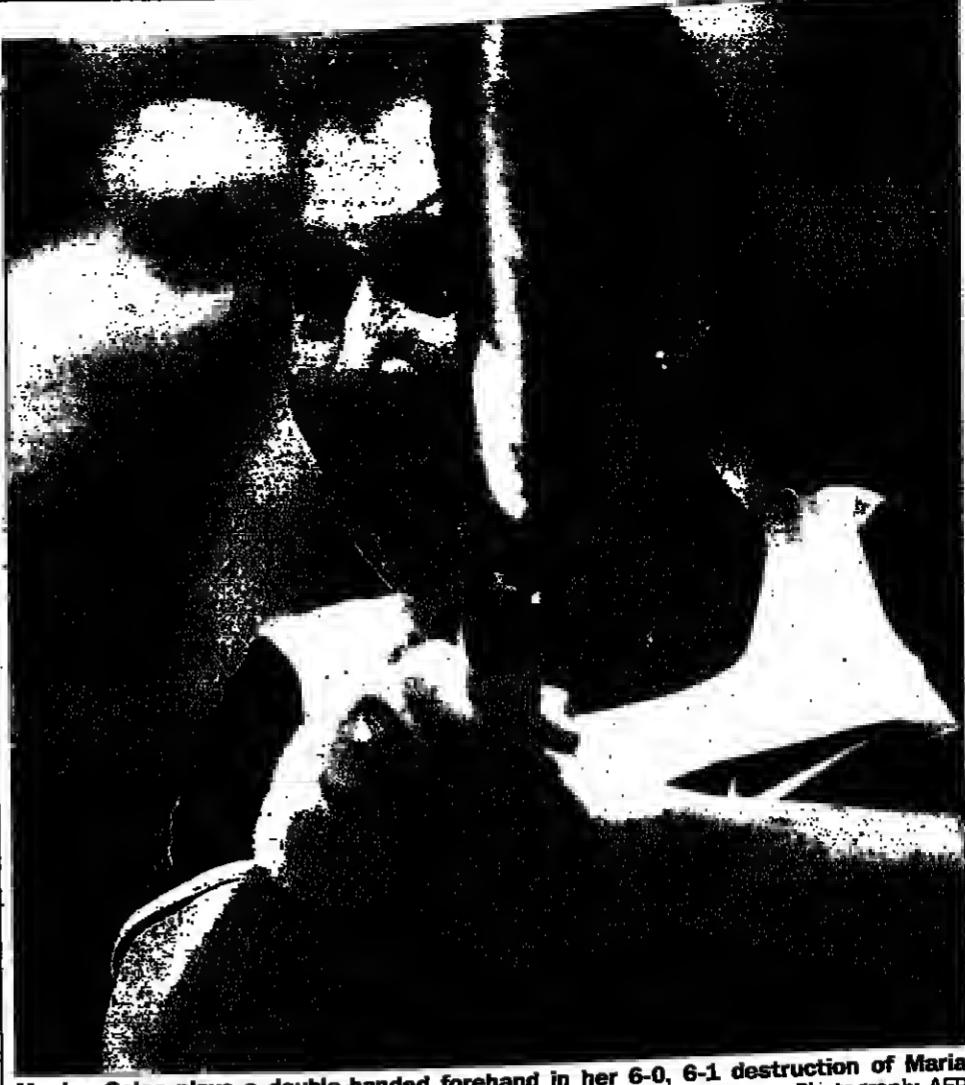
Only Paul Grayson, the outside-half from Northampton, was not considered for the opener. He has survived a couple of punishing, full-contact training sessions on firm surfaces

and if the strained muscle in his right thigh continues to respond to treatment, he will almost certainly face Border in East London on Wednesday.

Johan Kluyts, the Eastern Province coach, confirmed yesterday that two celebrated Springboks from Transvaal, Kobus Wierss and Henk le Roux, would square up to the Lions on Saturday, and also picked Theo van Rensburg, the former Test full-back, and Matthew Webber, a highly rated flanker from New Zealand, in his starting line-up.

Rian van Jaarsveld, a promising centre, and Armand de Preez, a second row forward with a colourful disciplinary record outside of the game as well as inside it, have returned to Port Elizabeth after spells at Transvaal while Ken Ford plays at outside-half under the terms of a mould-breaking swimming agreement between the two provinces.

LIONS: N Bakkies, P Botha, J Gous, S Groenewald, N Jantzen, G Townsend, B Howlett, T Smith, K Wood, J Leonard (capt), G White, S Shaw, L Dallaglio, T Rodber, R Hill, Substitutes: T Underwood, A Mullan, M Deverson, P Waterson, S Williams, S Quinlan.



Monica Seles plays a double-handed forehand in her 6-0, 6-1 destruction of Maria Antonia Sanchez in the second round of the Madrid Open yesterday. Photograph: AFP

## Cook the latest to join Giants

**Rugby League**

DAVE HADFIELD

Huddersfield have continued their drive for Super League status by signing the utility back Paul Cook from Bradford for £70,000.

Cook, a 20-year-old winger or full-back who played for England in the 1995 World Cup, is the fourth player with Super League experience to join the Giants in the last two weeks. He follows the London Broncos winger Igram Butt, forward Paul Dixon from Sheffield and Leeds' Great Britain Academy prop, Nick Fozard.

"Fozard and Cook in particular are players we have identified as wanting to bring here for a long time," Les Coulter, the Huddersfield chief executive, said.

"Our chairman, Ken Davy, has put down another marker for our ambitions, as these are the sort of players who can not

only get us into Super League but keep us there."

Huddersfield, three points behind Hull at the top of the First Division, are clearly stocking up with Super League in mind, which raises suspicions that they believe more than the proposed one club will be promoted at the end of this season. Coulter said he had heard rumours of an expansion to 14 clubs. "Our aim is to win promotion as champions," he said. "Failing that, if there is going to be an expansion, we want to be in the best possible place to be considered."

St Helens, will be without their stand-off, Tommy Martyn, for the rest of the season, following the news that he needs a second knee reconstruction in two years.

The winding-up order brought against Halifax by the Inland Revenue was withdrawn when it came before the High Court yesterday. The club have satisfied the Inland Revenue with a plan to pay off £100,000 in back tax.

## Witch Way for Funnell

**Equestrianism**

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Pippa Funnell had not expected to be among the competitors for the Chubb Insurance Windsor International Horse Trials, which begin today in Windsor Great Park. Having won the international section there for the last two years, she did not have a suitable mount in her yard on which to aim for a hat-trick.

Funnell has since been offered the ride on Witch Way whose owner, Briony Holloway, was injured in a fall at Daunton last month. Funnell has had one outing with the mare when finishing seventh at Goring Heath at the end of April.

"I wanted to support Windsor and I aim to have some fun there," Funnell said. Although Witch Way is a nice quality mare, she lacks experience and is unlikely to produce a good enough dressage test to give Funnell a third victory.

The value of Windsor as a

stepping stone to greater things was demonstrated at Punchestown in Ireland last weekend, when Funnell finished runner-up to the United States rider Bruce Davidson on Squelch. Funnell was riding Designer Tramp, who won at Windsor two years ago.

Lucinda Murray is another competitor who is taking over from an injured rider. She will be on Night Flight VII, who was due to be ridden by her owner, Sarah Brown, until she sustained back and arm injuries in a recent fall. Last year Brown jumped clear cross-country and show jumping rounds in the national section at Windsor to finish in ninth place.

Andrew Nicholson will be riding in his fifth three-day event in the same number of weeks when he rides the former point-to-point horse Whit Monday, one of 34 horses in the New Zealander's Somerset yard. The nine-year-old, who is a big and leggy horse of 17.3 hands, finished sixth in the French three-day event at Pau last year.

## All change for Admiral's

**Sailing**

STUART ALEXANDER

Changes to Britain's Admiral's Cup preparation are in full flow just two months before the three-boat team takes on some formidable opposition from New Zealand, America, Italy, Germany and Scandinavia.

The appointment of Chris Law as principal helmsman on Graham Walker's Corum Indulgence is strengthened by bringing in three top sailors from the Corum team, probably including Luc Gellieau.

The boat which has been shipped back from the United States, is to have the slightly oversized keel reshaped and further changes may be made to improve its handicap rating even if this were to take it outside the rules for the Corel 45 class in which it normally sails.

The 40-footer Easy Oars continues to make solid progress and further optimisation is part of owner Tony Buckingham's plan to counter the threat of the all-conquering Italian 40-footer, Pasquale Landolfi's Brava.

The only hiccup at the mo-

ment are within the Mumm 36 campaign, where Tim Barrett's Bradamante was shipped in error to Italy and both masts were damaged. But Bradamante, with Olympic silver medallists John Merricks and Ian Walker calling the shots, had to be in Italy by next week anyway for the Mumm 36 World Championships at Punta Ala.

They have a new mast, are also doing some work on their keel, and are anxious to bring some momentum back to a campaign which had an encouraging start in Key West and Miami.

What is causing them problems is the lack of offshore racing practice so far achieved and some doubts over funding. There was an earlier agreement over support for the Mumm 36, but not all of that is in place and without it the boat would have to stop racing between the world championship and the Admiral's Cup.

More confident in that area is the Royal Yachting Association, whose bid for lottery funding via the Sports Council should be ratified on 6 June. The RYA hopes to get up to £3m a year for the next three years.

**TOUGH ON  
PERSPIRATION  
EASY ON  
YOUR SKIN**

The new Vaseline

Anti-Perspirant for Men is smooth upfront and strong in defence. It won't sting your skin, but it will give perspiration the runaround. So if your anti-perspirant doesn't have this ability, it's time for a transfer.

**TOUGH ON  
PERSPIRATION  
EASY ON  
YOUR SKIN**

JOHN LEWIS

# Blackburn in £3m bid for Sforza

## Football

ALAN NIXON

Roy Hodgson's Swiss connections have led Blackburn Rovers to offer Internazionale £3m for the midfielder Ciriaco Sforza. Rovers, who have already made a £4.2m bid for Sforza's fellow-countryman and Borussia Dortmund striker Stéphane Chapuisat, made their move just hours before Inter played Schalke in last night's UEFA Cup final second leg.

The Premiership club are confident that Hodgson, who leaves Inter to manage Blackburn next month, can persuade Sforza to follow him to Ewood Park if the bid is accepted.

Hodgson has been Sforza's mentor since he was in charge of the Swiss national side and he took him to Inter last summer. Kaiserslautern, just promoted back to the Bundesliga, are also keen to sign Sforza, but are unlikely to be able to match Rovers' personal terms.

The prospects of Inter getting their hands on Barcelona's Ronaldo are slim. The club's president, Massimo Moratti, confirmed he had made an offer for striker, but was awaiting developments "with fatalism".

"If you want my impressions I don't think that Ronaldo will choose Inter," said Moratti, who is reported to have offered Barcelonita a £40m offer.

Shay Given, tired of being

Tim Flowers' goalkeeping understudy, has turned down a new contract at Rovers paving the way for the expected move to Newcastle United.

Given's impending arrival should oust the transfer-listed keeper Pavel Srnicek even further towards West Ham who, however, will need to increase their £500,000 offer.

Bruno N'Gotty will not be

playing in the black and white stripes next season, the de-

fender having signed a one-year extension to his three-year contract at Paris St-Germain.

Bolton Wanderers have ex-

tricated Neil Cox from the mire at relegated Middlesbrough for £1.5m. The full-back, linked at being left out of the FA Cup final, has been critical of his Boro team-mates, including

making personal attacks on

the classroom

new writ for Venable

Terry Venables is facing another courtroom battle, this time with former Portsmouth director Terry Brady, who is seeking repayment of a loan he says he made to the First Division club.

Brady left the board at Fratton Park last October after clashing with the then managing director, Martin Gregory, over the money available for new signings. He had been a director at Fratton Park for only eight months, after providing an interest-free £500,000 loan to the club to buy Martin Allen from West Ham.

Nick Trainer, Portsmouth's solicitor, warned yesterday that the dispute could take up to two years to settle.

Trainer said shares were ever issued to Brady because the club were unsure how much he was prepared to invest, but added that Brady could have whatever shares he had paid for.

Fabrizio Ravanelli. Not surprisingly, Cox, whose contract expires next month, rapidly agreed to join the Premiership newcomers.

Bolton were just as enthusiastic. "I acted very quickly. He has a wealth of experience for someone who is only 25," Bolton's manager Colin Todd said. "He is another very good quality acquisition."

Kevin Kilbane, the Preston North End winger, has become the first £1m signing in West Bromwich Albion's history. The fee exceeds Albion's 18-year-old transfer record of £750,000, paid to Manchester City for another winger, Peter Barnes.

Midfielder Julian Darby has left Albion for Preston in a separate deal worth £150,000.

The Dutch goalkeeper Edwin Zoetelief is expected to become Sunderland's first signing as a First Division club. The 27-year-old will give his decision on the £1m move from Voleodam in the next fortnight.

Grimsby Town and Walsall saw their managers depart yesterday, but in differing circumstances. Kenny Swain was dismissed by the Mariners in the wake of the their relegation to the Second Division, while Chris Nicholl resigned at Bescot Stadium, despite efforts to make him sign a new contract.

The former Grimsby manager Alan Buckley, who was sacked by West Brom in January, may return for his second spell at Blundell Park, but his Walsall connections could also make him a candidate for their unexpected vacancy.

Shrewsbury Town have entrusted Jake King, their former captain, with the task of revitalising the club after their drop into the Third Division. The 42-year-old Scot, who takes over from the sacked Fred Davies, had only been the manager of non-league neighbours Telford since November.

Garry Nelson, the Torquay United player-coach and author of the widely-acclaimed *Left Foot Forward*, an account of his life as a journeyman player, has retired from football and quit his job at Plainmoor. The 36-year-old Nelson is taking up a senior post with the Professional Footballers' Association, the players' union.

Shay Given, tired of being

Tim Flowers' goalkeeping understudy, has turned down a new contract at Rovers paving the way for the expected move to Newcastle United.

Given's impending arrival should oust the transfer-listed keeper Pavel Srnicek even further towards West Ham who, however, will need to increase their £500,000 offer.

Bruno N'Gotty will not be

playing in the black and white stripes next season, the de-

fender having signed a one-year extension to his three-year contract at Paris St-Germain.

Bolton Wanderers have ex-

tricated Neil Cox from the mire at relegated Middlesbrough for £1.5m. The full-back, linked at being left out of the FA Cup final, has been critical of his Boro team-mates, including

making personal attacks on

the classroom

new writ for Venable

club are fighting the writ, saying the money was not a loan but an investment to buy shares.

The case appeared briefly before the Chancery Division of the High Court in London, but was adjourned for a second hearing. Now the two sides will meet to try to sort out the dispute over the mucky.

Nick Trainer, Portsmouth's solicitor, warned yesterday that the dispute could take up to two years to settle.

Trainer said shares were ever issued to Brady because the club were unsure how much he was prepared to invest, but added that Brady could have whatever shares he had paid for.



Nick Faldo practises at Wentworth yesterday for tomorrow's Volvo PGA Championship.

Photograph: Allsport

## Sorenstam's tough assignment

Annika Sorenstam knows she is following the game's toughest shot at Pumpkin Ridge.

Yesterday she got her first look at the golf course on the rolling foothills of the Coast Range 20 miles west of Portland, where she will try this summer to become the first golfer to win a third consecutive US Women's Open.

It is the same course where, a year ago, Tiger Woods won his third successive US Amateur title.

"If our last stand here was any sign of what's to come, we're going to have a terrific week here

in July," said Judy Bell, president of the US Golf Association.

Sorenstam did not have time to play the Witch Hollow course, the side of the 36-hole Pumpkin Ridge layout where the US Women's Open will be played on 10 to 13 July. She flew to Moody from Delaware, where she finished third at the LPGA Championship. On Wednesday, she

won consecutive US Women's Open titles.

Sorenstam did not have time to play the Witch Hollow course, the side of the 36-hole Pumpkin Ridge layout where the US Women's Open will be played on 10 to 13 July. She flew to Moody from Delaware, where she finished third at the LPGA Championship. On Wednesday, she

won consecutive US Women's Open titles.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful year for the 26-year-old from Sweden by way of the Uni-

versity of Arizona. She was married to her long-time beau Dave Esch on 4 January, and already has won three tournaments in a row.

"It would be incredible," Sorenstam said. "I think about it a lot. I have an opportunity to do something nobody else has done, which is a big challenge. But on the other hand, I tell myself 'Don't feel like you have to do it. You have won it twice in a row.'"

Already, this has been a successful

**Import overload**

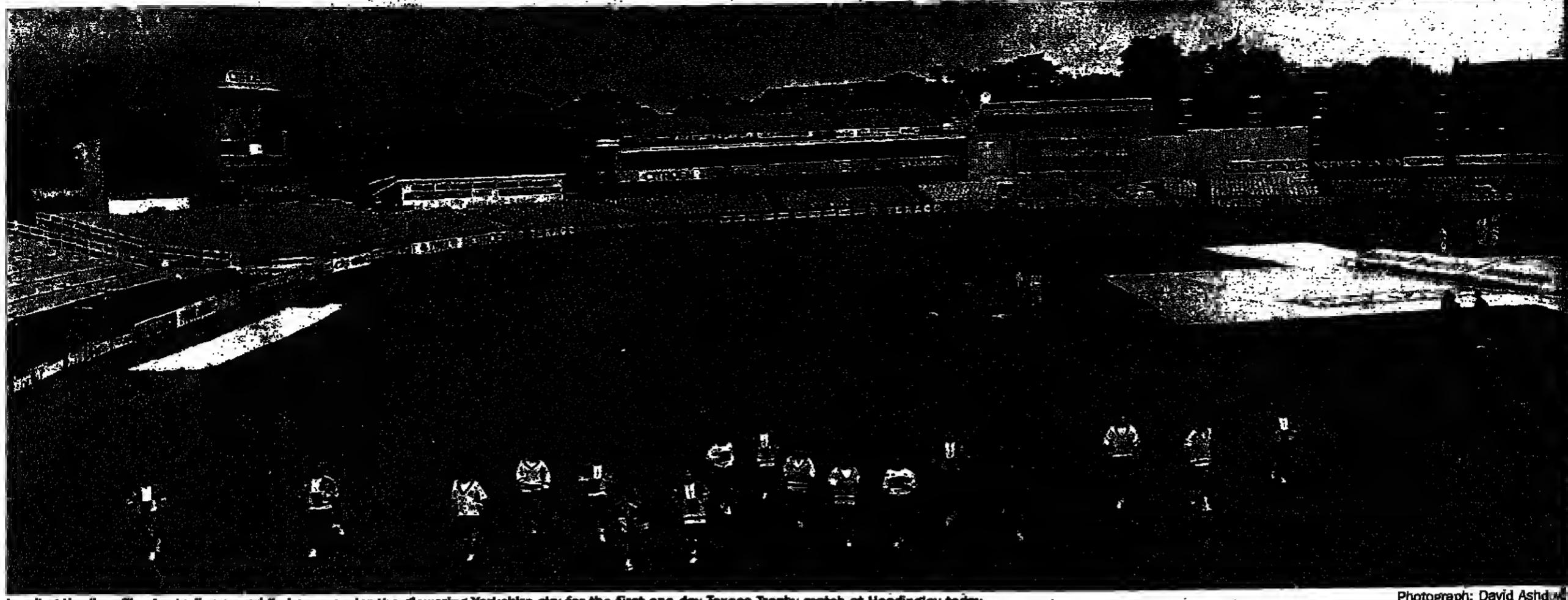
Ken Jones on England's lack of emerging talent, page 28

**sport**

THURSDAY 22 MAY 1997 • THE INDEPENDENT

**Rodber's return**

Lion's announce team for first tour match, page 30



Leading the line: The Australian squad timber up under the glowering Yorkshire sky for the first one-day Texaco Trophy match at Headingley today

Photograph: David Ashdown

# England have to take the initiative

**Cricket**DEREK PRINGLE  
reports from Headingley

Michael Atherton, never previously one to be counted amongst the one-day game's fanatics, suddenly finds he has much to play for over the next four days. But if protecting an unbeaten home record as captain in Texaco Trophy matches would normally be motivation enough, the added incentive of grasping the initiative against the Australians ought to ensure that this series, which begins here today, will be anything but predictable.

Looking relaxed and clean-shaven at yesterday's press con-

ference, the England captain promised that despite Australia's decade-long dominance over their old rivals, none of his players would have an inferiority complex.

"Australia is one team we haven't played or beaten in this kind of trophy," Atherton said yesterday. "We are keen to get off to a good start and grasp the initiative for the rest of the summer."

"We have plenty of individuals who are capable of doing well. You will have to wait and see, but we do have plenty of guys who will entertain you on your holiday. I believe we'll be competitive this time. We just need a better start to the series than we've had in the past."

Such a wish may not be entirely hopeful, either. For one thing Australia, having lost out to the weather, will appear underprepared. But although their captain, Mark Taylor, claims it is not a concern, their recent defeat – itself a rarity inside these shores – on a slow seaming pitch at Worcester did not beat a side who had just beaten two of the toughest teams in world cricket.

Taylor, however, was optimistic. "We are ready," he said. "We came here with a lot of cricket behind us and we only had a few weeks off to recharge our batteries."

Headingley, a traditional haven for seam bowling until the pitch was relaid a few seasons

ago, may well be similar and revert to type, particularly if the heavy cloud cover of the last two days remains overhead.

If so, runs are likely to be eked out rather than plundered, the stage set for scrapers like Taylor, Atherton and Steve Waugh rather than the expansive strokeplay of Michael Slater and Alec Stewart.

Nick Knight, his injured finger recovered enough for him to field at slip, will open the innings with Atherton. Thereafter the Surrey trio of Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Adam Hollioake will form a middle-order that will probably be bolstered by John Crawley, preferred – at least initially – to Graham Lloyd, as the man

most likely to prevent Shane Warne spinning a run-tight web.

With Mark Ealham, Robert Croft and Phil DeFreitas likely to fill the numerous all-rounder roles, both Ben Hollioake and Ashley Giles may have to wait a while longer before making their debut.

But while Taylor believes that advances in one-day cricket – such as pinch hitters – take it progressively further away from Test cricket, England's early season pitches, with their slow movement, will help keep many of the time-honoured orthodoxies, such as line and length bowling, in place.

That said, Darren Gough will lead a bowling attack which will include either Dean

Headley or Chris Silverwood as the other specialist bowler. A plethora of all-rounders, including Croft's off-spin, will provide the remaining overs.

There is always the temptation to pick a bowler on his home ground and Silverwood may well get the nod. More likely, however, is that Dean Headley will take the new ball alongside Gough. At the age of 27, it is high time the selectors found out what Headley is – impressive amongst the colts for England A last winter – can really do in the company of wolves.

And some test it could be with Mark Waugh, Michael Bevan, Greg Blewett and Slaters all keen to put bat to ball and rock

England's confidence. But despite their batting prowess, and the spectre of Warne, Taylor insisted that his side did not have a superiority complex.

"As I said when we arrived, it's nil-all at the moment. We can't just expect to win without doing the things that got us there in the past," Taylor said.

"As Australians, we don't need much more motivation than being in an Ashes contest and you can be sure we'll be going flat out as of tomorrow. It will be nice to win the one-day series because the side that wins it comprehensively will carry a big psychological advantage into the first Test match."

With his own form under

more scrutiny than Atherton was in Zimbabwe, Taylor, who feels he is at last beginning to hit the ball well, will be keen for a score as well as a win.

"I'm probably looking forward to this series more than anyone at the moment," he said after Australia's fielding practice yesterday. Knowing England's proclivity for bowling people back into form, I'll bet he is.

**FIRST TEXACO TROPHY INTERNATIONAL**  
(Headingley, today; England front: M.A. Atherton (capt), N.V. Waugh, A.J. Stewart (ldo), G.P. Trott, J.P. Crawley, D.L. Lloyd, B.C. Hollioake, A.M. Bevan, C.E.W. Silverwood, D.W. Headley, C.E.W. Silverwood, B.C. Hollioake, A.F. Giles; Australia (from l to r): M.A. Taylor (capt), M.E. Knight, S. Waugh, G. Blewett, D.W. Headley, D.G. Gough, P.A.J. DeFreitas, D.W. Headley, C.E.W. Silverwood, B.C. Hollioake, A.F. Giles)

Australia (from l to r): M.A. Taylor (capt), M.E. Knight, S. Waugh, G. Blewett, D.W. Headley, D.G. Gough, P.A.J. DeFreitas, D.W. Headley, C.E.W. Silverwood, B.C. Hollioake, A.F. Giles)

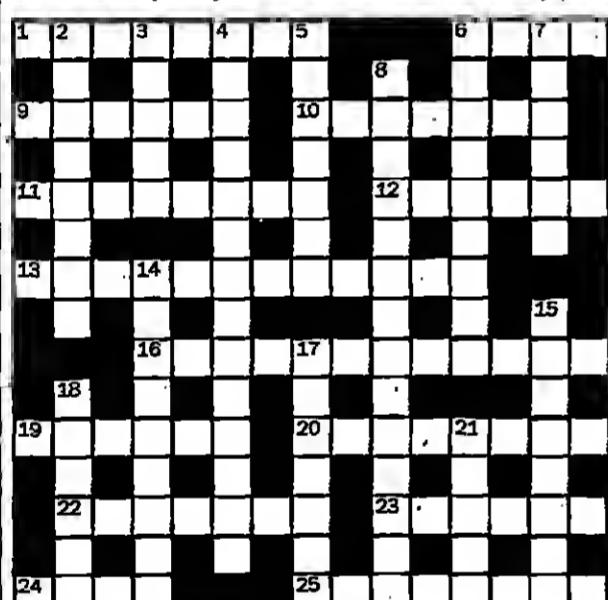
County cricket, page 28

**THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD**

No. 3305, Thursday 22 May

By Miles

Wednesday's solution



BOWERY KINSMAN  
AMIGOSHIPS ATOMIC  
TACG HOLLOWLESS  
TIME TRIAL  
FIELEAF ENTICE  
YIA ILIOR  
EGERIA SCOURGE  
SISSEN  
CORINTHIAN SCAR  
OEGTSWSRJ  
TIBIA REAPPEARS  
CEILAYAKA  
HOLIDAYS OROEAL

**ACROSS**

- Is a day out in one's schedule? (8)
- Share's about right – or short (4)
- Tin packed with mild fertiliser (6)
- Was worthy of state service, having died (7)
- Chap grilled a Grade A fillet (8)
- Cash yours truly's investment in bond (6)
- Not the best at setting up house (5-7)
- One at counter ordered plain line in carpeting (12)
- Bird or a couple audible by pen (6)
- The cloth's becoming secular (8)
- Flush borders in study (7)

**DOWN**

- Strolled, wandered off without leader (6)
- Show teeth and gnash no end (4)
- Nausea without question – then calm condition (6)
- Military type, one carrying a US arm reissued (7)
- Boat, vessel, rounding a SW river (9)
- Creature making nest in waste (6)
- Good grief! Anything hurt! (9,5)
- Fall gets Edward into trouble (9)
- Waves run aboard vessels (8)
- Huge pieces among rubble of semi (7)
- Agree to take in a dog (6)
- Handle? Lift with it (5)

## Lee laments lack of praise for home grown players

**Football**  
GUY HODGSON

You could be forgiven for thinking the England players have become a prosaic backdrop to show off the stellar talents of exotic foreigners. Take the Footballer of the Year award, for example. This year's winner was Gianfranco Zola, in 1996 it was Eric Cantona, in 1995 Jürgen Klinsmann.

It is enough to make a patriotic weep, yet the players themselves are not convinced and not just because they are piqued at being overlooked in the rush to applaud the likes of Juninho, etc. Not a single overseas player featured in the Professional Footballers' Association's team of the season and Robert Lee, for one, believes that assessment is correct.

Indeed Lee, a team-mate of Faustino Asprilla, David Ginola and Philippe Albert at Newcastle United, was positively gushing about the qualities of his compatriots as he prepared for England's friendly against South Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday. He insists his peers got it right to vote Alan Shearer player of the year and the football writers wrong to give their award to Zola.

"People underestimate how good English players are," Lee said. "They go on about the foreigners who have come over

here and done well. But look at the David Beckhams, the Paul Gascoignes, and players like that. We've got players just as good.

"I didn't pick any foreigners in my team. Zola was outstanding in a lot of matches, but in some he was missing. Over a year I think the players got it right. Alan Shearer should have got the writers' award for what he did in the European Championships and for finishing top scorer despite missing a third of the season through injury. That was a remarkable achievement."

Lee, a midfield player who has forced himself to the forefront of Glenn Hoddle's thinking with compelling displays

against Mexico and Georgia in the last two months, fears that the English game might suffer in the rush to import mercenaries. "Some of the foreigners, like Zola and Juninho, are world-class players," he said. "The problem is that if you bring too many in who are not, then there's trouble for the young players coming through."

"We don't make enough of our own players. When you see a foreign player do something, like in the Cup final when Zola flicked it back for Newton to score, there's such a fuss. John Motson was going mad about that but Paul Gascoigne could have done that with his eyes shut. It was just a back flick."

As for Lee himself, his en-

gagement from a player discarded for Euro 96 by Terry Venables to England's best performer against Mexico has not diminished speculation he might leave Newcastle for London. His original contract at St James' Park included a get-out clause in case he got homesick and he has been linked with a move to West Ham as Kenny Dalglish starts his summer renovations.

Lee, who has two years left on his contract, said: "I've had speculation about wanting to go back to London since I was at Newcastle. It's out of my hands. If Kenny wants to sell me there's not a lot I can do about that. Ideally, I don't want to leave, with the European Cup coming up, and we're a very big

club. But it's not down to me any more."

"Nothing surprises me in football, except Eric Cantona retiring. Everybody knows there will be changes at Newcastle."

The fee for a Lee move is estimated at £2.5m, huge for a 31-year-old but, as he puts it, cheap for an England player. He is delighted that his international career has been revived, having, this time last year, kicked his heels on England's Far East tour only to be omitted from Venables' squad.

"When I was left out I thought it was the end," he said. "It was a big blow. If I had expected it, I could have prepared myself for it. I played against Hungary and then I was due to play against China, but I was injured and told to rest my injury. I thought I was resting it for Euro 96 but it turned out I was resting for a lot longer."

"I feel as fit as I've ever been, a lot fitter than I probably was when I was at Charlton and a lot younger. I only moved into centre midfield three years ago and it's a new lease of life. It's like starting from scratch."

## Hoddle impressed by Gascoigne

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, is delighted with Paul Gascoigne's transformation into a picture of fitness. And now Hoddle hopes that his stock figure is matched by a mental sharpness for the World Cup challenge in Poland in 10 days.

"He's looking as lean and fit as anything," said Hoddle, who had been critical of the Rangers player's lifestyle and approach as he battled back from injury.

He has a new look all-round.

It is indicative that he has finally listened to Hoddle's ultimatum that he had to change or

pay the price. "His attitude is very good at the moment," Hoddle said.

"He's obviously given himself the best opportunity by getting himself back fit to stamp his authority on games when he plays. He hasn't exactly lost weight, he's now turned it into muscle, which is the best thing to do. He's done a lot of gym work." Gascoigne has also played seven testimonials in 15 days to get match sharp.

©Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01992 840370. Thursday 22 May 1997 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

orange

www.independent.co.uk

© 1997 The Independent

ISSN 0260 2205

10P

10P